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CENSUS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES
1926

MENNONITE BODIES

STATISTICS, DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

Separate figures are given for each of the 17 Mennonite bodies

PRICE 10 CENTS

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Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
1928

No. 70
118-133, 227

Mennonite Historical Library
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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The census of religious bodies, as its name indicates, is a census of religious organizations rather than a census of population classified according to denominational affiliation. This census is taken once in 10 years in accordance with the provisions of the permanent census act approved March 6, 1902, and is confined to churches located in continental United States.

Reports are obtained by the Bureau of the Census from each of the congregations, churches, or other local organizations of each religious body. The census data are thus obtained directly from the local churches and are not in any sense a compilation of the statistics collected by the different denominations and published in their yearbooks. Lists of the local organizations for 1926 have been secured in most cases, however, from the denominational headquarters, and much additional assistance has been rendered by the officials of the various denominational organizations.

The statistics of expenditures relate either to the calendar year 1926 or to the church record year which closed at some time during 1926, and the figures for membership, value of property, etc., relate to the close of that year.

Number of churches.—In the reports of the Census of Religious Bodies for 1916 and 1906 the total number of churches or organizations shown for some denominations was slightly in excess of the number of churches reporting membership. Since membership figures have been obtained for all of the churches included in the reports for the current year, and for other reasons, it has seemed advisable to use for purposes of comparison with 1926 the number of churches reporting membership in 1916 and 1906. These figures are used, therefore, in the tables presenting comparative figures for earlier censuses.

Membership.—The members of a local church organization, and thus of the denomination to which the church belongs, are those persons who are recognized as constituent parts of the organization. The exact definition of membership depends upon the constitution and practice of the church or denomination under consideration. Each church was instructed to report the number of its members according to the definition of member used in that particular church or organization. In some religious bodies the term "member" is applied only to communicants, while in others it includes all baptized persons, and in still other bodies it covers all enrolled persons.

Separate figures are shown for members under 13 years of age and those 13 years of age and over. The membership 13 years of age and over usually affords a better basis for comparison between denominations reporting membership on a different basis.

Urban and rural churches.—Urban churches are those located in cities or other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more on January 1, 1920, the date of the last Federal census. Rural churches, in accordance with the census definition, are those located in territory outside such incorporated places.

Church edifices.—A church edifice is a building used mainly for religious services and owned wholly or in part by the organization so using it.

Value of church property.—The term "value of church property" has been used in the reports of the Census of Religious Bodies, at least from 1890 to 1916, inclusive, in a very restricted sense, excluding (1) the value of investment property, (2) the value of parsonages or pastors' residences, and (3) the value of school

buildings, parish halls, monasteries, and other property which, while owned and used in some way by the church organization, was used for purposes not directly connected with church services.

In this bulletin, in order to avoid any uncertainty as to what is included, the term "value of church edifices" has been substituted for the term "value of church property," which was used in the earlier reports. The figures are strictly comparable, however, the new term covering exactly the same class of property as the old.

The "value of church edifices" comprises the estimated value of the church buildings owned and used for worship by the organizations reporting, together with the value of the land on which these buildings stand and the furniture, organs, bells, and other equipment owned by the churches and actually used in connection with church services. Where parts of a church building are used for social or educational work in connection with the church, the whole value of the building and its equipment is included, as it has been found practically impossible to make a proper separation in such cases.

The value of the parsonages or pastors' residences is shown as a separate item, where the ownership of such buildings is reported by the churches.

Debt.—The debt shown in connection with the data on church edifices and parsonages is for the most part secured by real estate mortgage or other claim on the property concerned. The summary tables show not only the amount of debt reported and the number of churches reporting a specific debt, but also the number of churches reporting that they had no debt. The whole number of churches reporting with regard to debt, including the two groups just mentioned, is in most cases nearly equal to the number reporting the value of church edifices or parsonages, respectively.

Expenditures.—The amount expended by the churches during their last fiscal year is separated in the reports received for most of the churches into two parts, comprising (1) current expenses and improvements and (2) benevolences, missions, etc. These figures indicate in a general way the distribution of the church expenditures between the requirements of local self-support and the contributions of the church to larger interests. The items called for, as they appeared on the schedule, were as follows:

Amount expended for salaries, repairs, and other running expenses; for improvements or new buildings; and for payments on church debt	$----------
Amount expended for benevolences, including home and foreign missions; for denominational support; and for all other purposes	$----------
Total expenditures during year	$----------

Averages.—The average number of members per church is obtained by dividing the total membership by the total number of churches shown. The average value of property and the average expenditure per church are obtained by dividing the total value of property and the total expenditures, respectively, by the number of churches reporting in each case.

Sunday schools.—The Sunday schools for which figures are presented in this bulletin are those maintained by the churches of the denomination to which the bulletin relates, including in some cases mission schools or other Sunday schools conducted by the church elsewhere than in the main church edifice. The statistics given relate to Sunday schools only and do not include the week-day schools that are maintained by a number of denominations.

MENNONITE BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

HISTORY

The origin of the denominations classed under the head of Mennonite bodies is traced by some to an early period in the history of the Christian Church. As various changes in doctrine and church organization came about, in both the East and the West, a number of communities, unwilling to accept them and preferring the simplicity of the Apostolic Church, remained more or less distinct through the Middle Ages. These communities received various names in different localities and in different centuries, but from the time of the first General Council at Nicea in the early part of the fourth century to the Conference of Dort, Holland, in 1632, they represented a general protest against ecclesiastical rule and a rigid liturgy, and an appeal for the simpler organization, worship, and faith of the apostolic age.

Present historical authorities, however, see little or no connection between these early independent movements and the present Mennonite Church, since those who founded the body to which present Mennonite bodies trace their origin came out from the Roman Catholic Church.

The first congregation of the church now known as Mennonite was organized in January, 1525, at Zurich, Switzerland, by Conrad Grebel, Felix Mantz, George Blaurock, and others. They called themselves "Brethren" (Swiss Brethren), but were commonly known as "Täufer." Grebel and his friends had been ardent coworkers with Ulrich Zwingli, but had withdrawn from his leadership in 1523, when they had realized that he would consent to a union of the church with the state, and that a church was to be established in which the whole population of the state would be obliged to hold membership. Zwingli's program called for the introduction of certain reforms in the existing Roman Catholic State Church. Grebel and his friends did not recognize infant baptism as scriptural. Hence they baptized again those who had been baptized in their infancy. For this reason they were called Anabaptists (Re-Baptizers). In 1534 the first Anabaptist congregations were organized in Holland by Obbe Philips. Two years later Obbe baptized Menno Simons (1496–1561), a converted Catholic priest. Menno soon became the most prominent leader of the "Obbenites," as the followers of Obbe Philips were called, in Holland and North Germany.

The name "Mennonite" dates from 1550, but would scarcely be recognized in Holland, where the usual name is "Doopsgezinde," or "Dooper," the Dutch equivalent for the English "Baptist." Similarly in parts of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, the German form "Taufgesinnte," or "Täufer," was used to indicate Baptists, although this name was not applied to all Mennonites. It was to some of the Flemish Mennonites, who, upon the invitation of King Henry VIII, settled in England and became the pioneers of the great weaving industry of that country, that the Baptists of England were largely indebted for their organization as a religious body, although it was not as "Mennonites" that they were invited to come to England, since it is known that persons of this faith were severely persecuted in England in the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth along with other nonconformists.

The persecutions of the Mennonites were due to the fact that in all countries, Protestant as well as Roman Catholic, church and state were united and dissenters were not tolerated. The number of Mennonites martyred is very great. Their

Book of Martyrs (First German Edition, Ephrata, Pa., 1749; English Edition, Elkhart, Ind., 1886) is a ponderous volume. In the Netherlands the persecution was very severe, but by the second decade after Menno Simons' death his followers had increased to respectable numbers, since in many places the authorities had been slow to carry out the decrees against them. The very presence of these numerous Mennonites proved the error of the supposition that the best interest of the state demands the toleration of only one creed within its realms. Holland became the first country to throw this principle overboard and grant religious freedom. After the founder of the Dutch Republic, William of Orange, had embraced the Reformed faith he ordered the cessation of persecution there (in 1577).

In Switzerland the persecution continued well into the seventeenth century. The last martyr was Hans Landis, the most prominent Mennonite bishop of that time, who was beheaded at Zurich in 1614. Thereafter many were imprisoned and some sentenced to the galleys.

After the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) Mennonites were permitted to settle in the Palatinate, in South Germany. Many fled to this province from Switzerland. When William Penn acquired Pennsylvania from the English Crown, he offered a home to all who were persecuted for their faith. The Mennonite pioneers in America were 13 families from Crefeld, Germany, who came on the ship *Concord*, in 1683, and settled at Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia. During the eighteenth century many Swiss Mennonites emigrated to Pennsylvania. They were for the most part poor. Their brethren in Holland formed an organization for the aid of those who did not have the means to go to America and contributed liberally for this purpose. Practically all the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonites are of Swiss descent. As their numbers increased during the first third of the eighteenth century, the Mennonites spread northward and westward from Germantown into Lancaster, Bucks, Berks, Montgomery, and other counties in Pennsylvania, and from these original settlements they have since spread to western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and farther west, and to Canada. As these early settlers came in contact with the Indians, they often found that their nonresistant principles served as a better protection than the rifles and stockades of most of the settlers, and there are but few records of injury of any kind inflicted upon them by the Indian tribes.

Since their settlement in this country a number of minor divisions have taken place among the Mennonites, occasioned by divergent views on some questions, but of late years the feeling has developed among nearly all branches that closer union and cooperation along certain common lines of gospel work would be desirable.

DOCTRINE

At a conference of some of the Mennonite groups in the Netherlands held at Dort, Holland, in 1632, a compilation of previous confessions of faith was made and called "A Declaration of the Chief Articles of our Common Christian Faith." This confession, containing 18 articles, was later accepted by the Alsatian Mennonites and is accepted by the great majority of the American Menonnite churches to-day.

A brief summary of these articles includes the following:

God the Creator of all things; the fall of man, through his disobedience; his restoration through the promise of the coming of Christ; the Advent of Christ, the Son of God; redemption has been purchased by His death on the cross for all mankind, from the time of Adam to the end of the world, who shall have believed on and obeyed Christ.

The law of Christ is contained in the Gospel, by obedience to which alone humanity is saved. Repentance and conversion, or complete change of life, without which no outward obedience to gospel requirements will avail to please God, is necessary to salvation. All who have repented of their sins and believed on Christ as the Saviour, and in heart and life accept His commandments, are born again. As such they obey the command to be baptized with water as a public testimony of their faith, are members of the Church of Jesus Christ, and are incorporated into the communion of the saints on earth. By partaking of the Lord's Supper the members express a common union with one another and a fellowship of love for and faith in Jesus Christ. The washing of the saints' feet is an ordinance instituted, and its perpetual observance commanded, by Christ. The state of matrimony is honorable between those spiritually kindred, and such alone can marry "in the Lord."

The civil government is a part of God's ministry, and members are not permitted to despise, blaspheme, or resist the government, but must be subject to it in all things and obedient to all its commands that do not militate against the will and law of God, and should pray earnestly for the government and its welfare, and in behalf of their country. Christ has forbidden his followers the use of carnal force in resisting evil and the seeking of revenge for evil treatment. Love for enemies can not be shown by acts of hatred and revenge, but by deeds of love and good will. The use of all oaths is forbidden, as contrary to God's will, though simple affirmation is allowed.

Those who willfully sin against God are to be excluded from the rights and privileges of the church, but are to be kindly exhorted to amend their ways, the object of expulsion being the amendment, not the destruction, of the offender, and for the benefit of the church. Those who, on account of their obstinacy, are finally reproved and expelled from the church, because separated from God, must also be shunned socially, "that the openly obstinate and reprobate one may not defile others in the church," though in case of need they are to be kindly cared for, and admonished as those in need of spiritual help.

At the end of earth and earthly existence, all those who have lived and shall then be living are to be changed in a moment at the sound of the last trump, and are to appear before the judgment seat of Christ, where the good shall be separated from the evil; the good to enter into the heavenly joys prepared for them, the evil to depart forever from God's presence and mercy into the place prepared for the devil and his servants.

To the conviction that some of the requirements of civil law are contrary to the will and law of God is largely due the fact that the Mennonites have suffered so severely in past centuries, and have often been charged with being "clannish."

The Lord's Supper is observed twice a year in nearly all the congregations, and the great majority of them also observe the ordinance of washing the saints' feet in connection with and immediately after the Lord's Supper. In nearly all the Mennonite bodies baptism is by pouring.

ORGANIZATION

With two exceptions the form of church government in the different bodies of the Mennonites is the same. The local church is autonomous, deciding all matters affecting itself. District or State conferences are established, in most cases, to which appeals may be made; otherwise the authority of the congregation or of a committee appointed by the congregation is final. All decisions of State or district conferences are presented to the individual congregation for ratification. The divinely appointed offices of the Church of Christ are held to be those of bishop (sometimes called elder and sometimes presbyter), minister (pastor or evangelist), and almoner (deacon). The ministers are generally self-supporting, sharing the farming life of most of the Mennonite communities. Besides these there are teachers, male and female, as coworkers in the administration of the work.

STATISTICS

The denominations grouped as Mennonite bodies in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed on pages 8 and 9, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods.

As will be noted, there have been a number of changes in the names of the denominations, occasioned partly by changes in the bodies themselves, partly by a better classification. The Bruederhoef Mennonite Church is now known as the Hutterian Brethren, Mennonites; the Central Illinois Conference has dropped the "Illinois"; the Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde is now the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America; and the Nebraska and Minnesota Conference of Mennonites is now the Conference of Defenseless Mennonites of North America. The Amish Mennonite Church of 1906 has been consolidated with the Mennonite Church, but in its place has appeared the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, while the Old Amish Mennonite Church has become the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church. The Stauffer Mennonites constituted a new body in 1916, as did the Kleine Gemeinde, which appears to have been included with the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde in 1906. The Unaffiliated Mennonite Congregations, shown for the first time in 1926, comprise various bodies of Mennonites who adhere to the tenets of the Confession of Faith adopted by the Mennonites at Dort in 1632, but have not affiliated themselves with any of the organized conferences.

In view of the influence exerted by the Amish Mennonites in the development of the Mennonite bodies, a preliminary statement of the movement is given following the summary of statistics and preceding the statement of the Mennonite Church with which the Amish Mennonite Church as an ecclesiastical body has been consolidated.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR MENNONITE BODIES: 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	**826**	**87,164**	**680**	**$4,453,613**	**731**	**$1,270,067**	**631**	**87,897**
Mennonite Church	295	34,039	264	1,565,800	279	320,151	261	37,788
Hutterian Brethren, Mennonites	6	700	5	19,000	3	9,645	3	115
Conservative Amish Mennonite Church	7	691	7	16,845	5	2,718	6	871
Old Order Amish Mennonite Church	71	6,006	5	20,300	35	8,011	13	898
Church of God in Christ (Mennonite)	26	1,832	18	78,850	18	7,705	8	436
Old Order Mennonite Church (Wisler)	19	2,227	18	68,700	12	2,504	----	----
Reformed Mennonite Church	31	1,117	28	108,800	27	20,565	----	----
General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America	136	21,582	130	1,212,350	131	378,794	130	23,537
Defenseless Mennonites	10	1,060	10	87,200	10	37,001	10	1,386
Mennonite Brethren in Christ	99	5,882	90	544,643	96	229,803	93	8,560
Mennonite Brethren Church of North America	61	6,484	49	318,920	54	118,384	50	7,575
Krimmer Bruder-Gemeinde	14	797	14	54,105	14	13,543	14	1,182
Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde	4	214	4	6,700	4	486	3	150
Central Conference of Mennonites	29	3,124	24	263,000	29	100,747	28	3,614
Conference of the Defenseless Mennonites of North America	9	818	9	60,900	9	14,680	8	1,415
Stauffer Mennonite Church	4	243	2	4,500	1	180	----	----
Unaffiliated Mennonite Congregations	5	348	3	23,000	4	5,150	4	370

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR MENNONITE BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Con.

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1916								
Total for the group	**835**	**79,363**	**661**	**$2,292,424**	**664**	**$503,972**	**626**	**79,426**
Mennonite Church	307	34,965	276	1,014,246	281	156,069	270	37,096
Hutterian Brethren	17	982	12	11,100	----	----	14	605
Conservative Amish Mennonite Church	13	1,066	12	20,060	11	3,517	11	882
Old Order Amish Mennonite Church	88	7,665	----	----	4	406	5	242
Church of God in Christ (Mennonite)	21	1,125	14	23,815	17	6,333	10	675
Old Order Mennonite Church (Wisler)	22	1,608	18	43,900	5	185	----	----
Reformed Mennonite Church	29	1,281	29	85,965	27	5,606	----	----
General Conference of Mennonites of North America	113	15,407	106	544,560	107	149,237	105	17,594
Defenseless Mennonites	11	854	11	33,500	10	10,241	10	1,423
Mennonite Brethren in Christ	108	4,737	91	223,648	105	91,317	101	7,755
Mennonite Brethren Church of North America	53	5,127	47	131,605	53	38,101	53	7,716
Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde	13	894	12	31,700	13	13,075	13	1,556
Kleine Gemeinde	3	171	2	3,200	2	25	4	66
Central Conference of Mennonites	17	2,101	16	91,500	17	21,621	16	2,059
Conference of the Defenseless Mennonites of North America	15	1,171	12	30,625	12	8,239	14	1,757
Stauffer Mennonites	5	209	3	3,000	----	----	----	----
1906								
Total for the group	**604**	**54,798**	**497**	**1,237,134**	----	----	**411**	**44,922**
Mennonite Church	220	18,674	202	500,112	----	----	156	15,798
Bruederhoef Mennonite Church	8	275	8	9,100	----	----	----	----
Amish Mennonite Church	57	7,640	52	122,275	----	----	54	6,367
Old Amish Mennonite Church	46	5,043	4	6,700	----	----	6	493
Reformed Mennonite Church	34	2,079	29	52,650	----	----	----	----
General Conference of Mennonites of North America	90	11,661	84	303,400	----	----	84	12,472
Church of God in Christ (Mennonite)	18	562	2	1,600	----	----	----	----
Old (Wisler) Mennonite Church	9	655	9	17,950	----	----	----	----
Defenseless Mennonites	14	967	13	16,800	----	----	13	1,102
Mennonite Brethren in Christ	68	2,801	57	140,747	----	----	59	3,720
Bundes Conferenz der Mennoniten Brueder-Gemeinde:								
Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde	6	708	6	17,900	----	----	6	680
Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde	13	1,825	13	13,000	----	----	13	2,550
Central Illinois Conference of Mennonites	13	1,363	12	25,900	----	----	12	958
Nebraska and Minnesota Conference of Mennonites	8	545	6	9,000	----	----	8	782

AMISH MENNONITE MOVEMENT

Jacob Ammon, or Amen, whose name gave the term "Amish" to the movement, was a native of Canton Bern, Switzerland; but, probably to escape persecution, he settled in Alsace in 1659. There was a tendency on the part of many of the Mennonites of the time, during the interval of rest from persecution, to become lax in their religious life and discipline. Ammon was the acknowledged leader of those who held to the strict letter of Menno Simons' teachings and the literal interpretation of several points of doctrine presented in the Confession of Faith, adopted at the Conference held at Dort, Holland, in 1632. Maintaining that, because they were not literally and rigorously carried out, some of the articles of the confession were a dead letter with many of the congregations, he traveled extensively, laboring to restore the communities to the spiritual life and condition manifested during Menno's ministry among them. The special point of

divergence between his followers and the other Mennonites was in regard to the exercise of the ban, or excommunication of disobedient members, as taught in I Corinthians v, 9–11; II Thessalonians iii, 14; Titus iii, 10, and incorporated in the Confession of Faith. The Amish party interpreted these passages as applying to daily life and the daily table; while the others understood them to mean simply the exclusion of expelled members from the communion table.

In 1690 two bishops, Ammon and Blank, acted as a committee to investigate conditions in Switzerland and southern Germany. As those accused of laxity in the particulars mentioned did not appear when called upon to answer the charges preferred against them, the Amish leaders expelled them. They in turn disowned the Amish party, and the separation was completed in 1698. Some time after this, Ammon and his followers made overtures for a reconciliation and union of the two factions, but these were rejected, and it remained for the closing years of the nineteenth century, almost exactly two centuries later, to see the steps taken that virtually reunited the two bodies, or the main part of each, for in the meantime there had been other divisions between the extreme elements of both.

At about the time of the separation, the migration of Mennonites from Europe to the crown lands acquired by William Penn in America began to assume large proportions, and included many of the Amish Mennonites, who settled in what now comprises Lancaster, Mifflin, Somerset, Lawrence, and Union Counties, in Pennsylvania. William Penn himself traveled extensively among the Mennonites in Europe, preaching in their meetings, and rendering them aid in various ways. From Pennsylvania the Amish Mennonites moved with the westward tide of migration into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, and other States. There was also a large exodus from Pennsylvania and from Europe direct to Canada, principally to the section westward of the large tract acquired by the early Mennonite settlers in Waterloo County, Ontario.

Toward the middle of the nineteenth century a growing sentiment in favor of closer relations between the two main bodies of Mennonites became manifest. Many prominent men on both sides, feeling that the division of 1698 was an error for which both sides were more or less to blame, used their influence toward a reconciliation. The establishment in 1864 of a religious periodical, and later the publication of other religious literature, for the benefit of, and supported by, both the Mennonite Church and the Amish Mennonites, naturally drew them into closer relationship. One result was the revival in both branches of direct evangelistic and missionary effort, which had been largely neglected ever since the migration from Europe to America. In this resumption of long neglected activities, denominational lines between the two bodies were disregarded. The establishment also of a common church school, in the closing decade of the last century, brought the most prominent men and ablest thinkers, as well as the young people of both parties, into one working body. Almost simultaneous with this, and as a natural result of it, was the establishment in 1898 of a General Conference, in which each body was accorded equal rights in all things pertaining to conference work. Subsequently, as stated above, the three conferences reported in 1906 as Amish Mennonite became identified with the Mennonite Church,[1] and the term as used at present refers to the two main branches—Conservative and Old Order—which still retain some of the beliefs and practices which were the basis of the separation.

[1] See Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, p. 23, and Old Order Amish Mennonite Church, p. 27.

MENNONITE CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Mennonite Church for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Mennonite Church consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	295	60	235	20.3	79.7
Members	34,039	6,820	27,219	20.0	80.0
Average per church	115	114	116		
Membership by sex:					
Male	15,852	3,072	12,780	19.4	80.6
Female	18,187	3,748	14,439	20.6	79.4
Males per 100 females	87.2	82.0	88.5		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	520	119	401	22.9	77.1
13 years and over	31,983	6,671	25,312	20.9	79.1
Age not reported	1,536	30	1,506	2.0	98.0
Per cent under 13 years [3]	1.6	1.8	1.6		
Church edifices:					
Number	270	56	214	20.7	79.3
Value—Churches reporting	264	55	209	20.8	79.2
Amount reported	$1,565,800	$396,100	$1,169,700	25.3	74.7
Average per church	$5,931	$7,202	$5,597		
Debt—Churches reporting	9	4	5		
Amount reported	$6,886	$5,775	$1,111	83.9	16.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	213	42	171	19.7	80.3
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	18	12	6		
Amount reported	$86,750	$74,000	$12,750	85.3	14.7
Debt—Churches reporting	1	1			
Amount reported	$1,000	$1,000		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage	14	10	4		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	279	58	221	20.8	79.2
Amount reported	$320,151	$87,394	$232,757	27.3	72.7
Current expenses and improvements	$150,589	$43,071	$107,518	28.6	71.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.	$169,087	$44,323	$124,764	26.2	73.8
Not classified	$475		$475		100.0
Average expenditure per church	$1,147	$1,507	$1,053		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	261	54	207	20.7	79.3
Officers and teachers	4,252	1,009	3,243	23.7	76.3
Scholars	37,788	9,308	28,480	24.6	75.4

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 295 active organizations of the Mennonite Church, with 34,039 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 294 churches and the classification by age was reported by 282 churches, including, however, only 127 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890. Figures for 1890 and 1906 include those for the Amish Mennonite Church, which subsequently united with this denomination.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906 [1]	1890 [1]
Churches (local organizations)	295	307	277	343
Increase [2] over preceding census:				
Number	−12	30	−66	
Per cent	−3.9	10.8	−19.2	
Members	34,039	34,965	26,314	27,179
Increase [2] over preceding census:				
Number	−926	8,651	−865	
Per cent	−2.6	32.9	−3.2	
Average membership per church	115	114	95	79
Church edifices:				
Number	270	285	259	259
Value—Churches reporting	264	276	254	
Amount reported	$1,565,800	$1,014,246	$622,387	$393,495
Average per church	$5,931	$3,675	$2,450	
Debt—Churches reporting	9	16	13	
Amount reported	$6,886	$12,562	$2,536	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting	18	11	5	
Amount reported	$86,750	$20,750	$6,700	
Debt—Churches reporting	1			
Amount reported	$1,000			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	279	281		
Amount reported	$320,151	$156,069		
Current expenses and improvements	$150,589	$71,868		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$169,087	$84,201		
Not classified	$475			
Average expenditure per church	$1,147	$555		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	261	270	210	
Officers and teachers	4,252	4,130	2,765	
Scholars	37,788	37,096	22,165	

[1] Statistics for 1906 and 1890 include the Amish Mennonite Church, consolidated between 1906 and 1916 with this denomination.
[2] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Mennonite Church by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each conference in the Mennonite Church, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females [1]
United States	**295**	**60**	**235**	**34,039**	**6,820**	**27,219**	**15,852**	**18,187**	**87.2**
Middle Atlantic:									
Pennsylvania	119	31	88	16,310	3,724	12,586	7,438	8,872	83.8
East North Central:									
Ohio	25	5	20	4,462	420	4,042	2,115	2,347	90.1
Indiana	20	8	12	3,247	1,395	1,852	1,567	1,680	93.3
Illinois	14	4	10	1,822	340	1,482	880	942	93.4
Michigan	9	------	9	687	--------	687	328	359	91.4
West North Central:									
Minnesota	2	------	2	76	--------	76	37	39	--------
Iowa	5	------	5	982	--------	982	477	505	94.5
Missouri	13	------	13	677	--------	677	312	365	85.5
North Dakota	3	------	3	110	--------	110	60	50	--------
South Dakota	1	------	1	21	--------	21	11	10	--------
Nebraska	4	------	4	629	--------	629	311	318	97.8
Kansas	9	2	7	828	89	739	379	449	84.4
South Atlantic:									
Maryland	12	1	11	813	301	512	416	397	104.8
District of Columbia	1	1	------	31	31	--------	15	16	--------
Virginia	27	2	25	1,894	182	1,712	837	1,057	79.2
West Virginia	10	------	10	227	--------	227	82	145	56.6
East South Central:									
Tennessee	2	1	1	27	12	15	9	18	--------
Mississippi	1	------	1	46	--------	46	22	24	--------
West South Central:									
Louisiana	1	1	------	13	13	--------	6	7	--------
Oklahoma	2	------	2	85	--------	85	45	40	--------
Texas	1	------	1	15	--------	15	7	8	--------
Mountain:									
Montana	2	------	2	39	--------	39	22	17	--------
Idaho	2	1	1	104	58	46	53	51	--------
Colorado	5	1	4	400	155	245	177	223	79.4
Pacific:									
Oregon	5	2	3	494	100	394	246	248	99.2

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Mennonite Church, by far the largest of the different Mennonite bodies, represents the general trend of them all and is most closely identified with the history already given. In the controversy which resulted in the separation of the Amish Mennonite Church, it stood for the more liberal interpretation of the Confession of Faith, and has ever since included what may be called the conservatively progressive element of the Mennonite communities. It furnished the first Mennonite colony at Germantown, Pa., and was the most important factor in the westward extension of the different communities mentioned in the general statement.[2]

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.
[2] See Mennonite bodies, p. 6.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906[1]	1926	1916	1906[1]	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13[2]
United States	**295**	**307**	**277**	**34,039**	**34,965**	**26,314**	**520**	**31,983**	**1,536**	**1.6**
Pennsylvania	119	121	95	16,310	16,044	11,062	183	16,035	92	1.1
Ohio	25	37	31	4,462	5,297	5,242	67	3,668	727	1.8
Indiana	20	18	22	3,247	2,903	2,216	63	3,184	-------	1.9
Illinois	14	14	15	1,822	1,757	1,765	17	1,604	201	1.0
Michigan	9	8	8	687	509	491	20	667	-------	2.9
Iowa	5	7	7	982	1,399	691	22	960	-------	2.2
Missouri	13	14	10	677	734	709	9	668	-------	1.3
North Dakota	3	4	2	110	194	129	3	107	-------	2.7
Nebraska	4	8	6	629	1,060	459	2	468	159	0.4
Kansas	9	12	12	828	1,060	638	37	642	149	5.4
Maryland	12	8	17	813	696	713	4	764	45	0.5
Virginia	27	24	24	1,894	1,668	999	51	1,706	137	2.9
West Virginia	10	7	11	227	226	331	2	225	-------	0.9
Oklahoma	2	4	4	85	157	157	3	82	-------	-------
Colorado	5	4	3	400	273	169	12	362	26	3.2
Oregon	5	6	4	494	628	278	15	479	-------	3.0
Other States	13	11	6	372	360	265	10	362	-------	2.7

[1] Figures include the Amish Mennonite Church.
[2] Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

The general Confession of Faith adopted at Dort, Holland, in 1632, is accepted in full. In polity, so far as the local church and district and State conferences are concerned, the church is in accord with other Mennonite bodies.

The General Conference,[3] organized in 1898,[4] meets every two years, but is regarded as merely an advisory body. Delegates are chosen from among the ministers and deacons of the various State conferences and they, together with the bishops, who are members of the Conference by virtue of their office, decide all questions by majority vote. All their ministers and deacons have the privilege of debate but have no vote. This General Conference furnishes the basis for the practical union of the Mennonite Church and what was formerly known as the Amish Mennonite Church. Two of the three conferences of the former Amish Mennonite Church have been merged with the Mennonite conferences in which their congregations are located. The remaining conference is a constituent member of the General Conference. It is called Eastern Amish Mennonite, for geographic reasons, rather than as indicating any distinction in doctrine or polity. A movement is now on foot for the merging of the Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference with the Mennonite conferences in which its members reside.

For a better understanding of the relations of these bodies, an historical sketch of the origin and development of the Amish Mennonites has been given on page 9.

[3] Not to be mistaken for the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America, p. 39.
[4] In 1896 an informal committee issued a call for a representative preliminary meeting. This was held in 1897 and issued a call for the first general conference which met and organized in 1898.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**295**	**270**	**264**	**$1,565,800**	**9**	**$6,886**	**18**	**$86,750**	**1**	**$1,000**
Pennsylvania	119	118	117	960,950	3	5,700	7	33,500	-------	-------
Ohio	25	29	25	138,500	2	475	-------	(1)	-------	-------
Indiana	20	19	19	113,700	1	50	4	16,500	1	1,000
Illinois	14	14	14	102,600	-------	-------	-------	(1)	-------	-------
Michigan	9	8	8	22,700	1	450	-------	-------	-------	-------
Iowa	5	5	5	33,000	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
Missouri	13	9	9	14,600	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
North Dakota	3	3	3	5,700	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
Nebraska	4	4	4	17,000	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
Kansas	9	9	8	26,000	-------	-------	-------	(1)	-------	-------
Maryland	12	9	9	36,500	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
Virginia	27	23	23	47,950	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------
West Virginia	10	3	3	4,400	-------	-------	-------	(1)	-------	-------
Colorado	5	5	5	19,400	-------	-------	-------	(1)	-------	-------
Oregon	5	3	3	10,200	-------	-------	-------	(1)	-------	-------
Other States[2]	15	9	9	12,600	2	211	7	36,750	-------	-------

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.
[2] The figures for value of parsonages include data for 7 churches in Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, West Virginia, Colorado, and Oregon.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR					SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**295**	**279**	**$320,151**	**$150,589**	**$169,087**	**$475**	**261**	**4,252**	**37,788**
Pennsylvania	119	118	131,802	64,335	67,467	-------	104	1,739	16,167
Ohio	25	25	39,983	15,064	24,919	-------	25	520	5,109
Indiana	20	20	31,737	11,354	20,383	-------	20	435	4,180
Illinois	14	14	47,265	37,195	10,070	-------	13	288	2,448
Michigan	9	9	6,372	3,137	3,235	-------	7	91	805
Iowa	5	5	8,301	2,331	5,970	-------	4	154	1,090
Missouri	13	12	4,669	696	3,843	130	10	109	733
North Dakota	3	3	1,178	258	920	-------	3	36	160
Nebraska	4	4	4,630	1,044	3,586	-------	3	69	629
Kansas	9	9	8,850	2,177	6,673	-------	9	143	1,157
Maryland	12	10	5,719	2,704	2,895	120	10	102	731
Virginia	27	20	9,291	1,553	7,738	-------	25	248	2,126
West Virginia	10	7	444	227	217	-------	5	20	258
Colorado	5	5	4,535	1,282	3,028	225	4	74	566
Oregon	5	5	10,241	3,790	6,451	-------	5	106	873
Other States	15	13	5,134	3,442	1,692	-------	14	118	756

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: MENNONITE CHURCH

CONFERENCE	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	**295**	**34,039**	**264**	**$1,565,800**	**9**	**$6,886**	**279**	**$320,151**	**261**	**37,788**
Dakota-Montana	7	200	3	5,700	----	----	6	1,593	7	290
Eastern Amish Mennonite	15	3,567	14	96,550	----	----	15	30,632	14	3,894
Franconia	16	3,603	16	137,500	----	----	16	32,829	13	3,038
Illinois	14	1,822	14	102,600	----	----	14	47,265	13	2,448
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite	29	3,934	27	136,400	2	500	29	38,109	27	4,985
Iowa-Nebraska	11	1,728	11	53,200	----	----	11	13,750	9	1,879
Lancaster	79	10,450	77	666,700	2	3,700	78	66,952	70	10,450
Missouri-Kansas	31	1,993	25	61,400	1	136	29	18,761	26	2,565
Ohio	16	1,558	16	75,000	2	475	16	16,746	16	2,031
Pacific coast	7	598	5	15,200	1	75	7	11,699	7	1,092
Southwestern Pennsylvania	19	1,553	19	115,000	1	2,000	19	27,403	19	1,958
Virginia, Washington County, Md., and Franklin County, Pa	41	2,254	28	58,350	----	----	30	11,660	33	2,572
Washington County, Md., and Franklin County, Pa	10	779	9	42,200	----	----	9	2,752	7	586

WORK

In all departments of church activity—missionary, educational, and philanthropic—the Mennonite Church and the Amish Mennonite Church work together. There is a Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, one member of which is elected from each of the Mennonite and Amish Mennonite conference districts.

The home missionary work is divided into evangelistic and city mission departments. The evangelistic department supplies needy congregations with ministers and provides congregations with evangelists to hold revival meetings. The city mission department conducts missions in Chicago, Kansas City, Kans., and some other cities.

The report for 1926 shows 68 missionaries, employed in 12 States, 11 churches aided, and contributions for the general home missionary work amounting to $104,313.

The first foreign mission station was opened in 1899, at Dhamtari, India. Six other stations have since been established, and a considerable amount of land has been acquired for an industrial department.

The report for 1926 shows 27 missionaries with 58 native helpers; 7 organized churches with 1,258 members; 16 schools, including a theological seminary, with a total attendance of 1,219 pupils; 11 charitable institutions with 930 inmates; and 1 hospital and 5 medical dispensaries, treating during the year 22,667 patients.

In 1917 mission work was opened in Argentina. There are now 18 missionaries at 7 stations and a church of 191 members.

Contributions amounting to $22,481 were made to missions in South America and $68,918 to missions in India. This is exclusive of $28,000 expended on new buildings for South American missions and $5,508 on new buildings for India.

The educational interests of the denomination are represented by 3 schools—Goshen College, at Goshen, Ind., supported jointly by the Mennonites and the Amish Mennonites; Hesston College, Hesston, Kans.; and Eastern Mennonite School at Harrisonburg, Va. The number of students in these 3 schools during the year was 690, and the amount contributed for their support was $21,819. The value of property used for educational purposes is estimated at $188,250, and there are endowments amounting to $43,000.

Philanthropic institutions under the care of the 2 bodies include 2 hospitals in which 107 patients were treated in 1926; 3 orphans' homes and 4 homes for the aged, the 7 homes having about 250 inmates. The amount contributed during the year was $19,141, the value of property was placed at $100,125, and the endowment at $40,000.

An unincorporated organization, to membership in which any member of any branch of the Mennonite bodies is eligible, has been formed for the purpose of rendering aid to any of its members who suffer loss of property by fire, lightning, or storm. The property of the members is entered at three-fourths of its actual value, and pro rata assessments are made annually to cover all losses of the preceding period. Another organization, similar in nature and purpose but limited in membership to the members of the Mennonite Church, is maintained in Lancaster County, Pa. There are similar organizations in other localities, and the total value of property entered upon the books of these organizations is upward of $12,000,000.

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HUTTERIAN BRETHREN, MENNONITES

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Hutterian Brethren, Mennonites, for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Hutterian Brethren, Mennonites, consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: HUTTERIAN BRETHREN, MENNONITES

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	6	1	5		
Members	700	27	673	3.9	96.1
Average per church	117	27	135		
Membership by sex:					
Male	347	11	336	3.2	96.8
Female	353	16	337	4.5	95.5
Males per 100 females	98.3	[3]	99.7		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	226		226		100.0
13 years and over	274	27	247	9.9	90.1
Age not reported	200		200		100.0
Per cent under 13 years [4]	45.2		47.8		
Church edifices:					
Number	5	1	4		
Value—Churches reporting	5	1	4		
Amount reported	$19,000	$1,000	$18,000	5.3	94.7
Average per church	$3,800	$1,000	$4,500		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	3		3		
Amount reported	$9,645		$9,645		100.0
Current expenses and improvements	$1,645		$1,645		100.0
Benevolences, missions, etc	$8,000		$8,000		100.0
Average expenditure per church	$3,215		$3,215		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	3	1	2		
Officers and teachers	15	6	9		
Scholars	115	20	95	17.4	82.6

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.
[4] Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 6 active organizations of the Hutterian Brethren, all in the State of South Dakota. The total membership was 700, comprising 347 males and 353 females. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 6 churches and the classification by age was reported by 5 churches, including 3 which reported members under 13 years of age.

Of the 5 churches reporting value of church edifices, none reported debt on such property, and there were no parsonages reported.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890; it was reported under the name of Bruederhof Mennonite Church in 1890 and 1906.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: HUTTERIAN BRETHREN, MENNONITES

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	6	17	8	5
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−11	9	3	
Per cent [2]				
Members	700	982	275	352
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−282	707	−77	
Per cent	−28.7	257.1	−21.9	
Average membership per church	117	58	34	70
Church edifices:				
Number	5	12	8	5
Value—Churches reporting	5	12	8	
Amount reported	$19,000	$11,100	$9,100	$4,500
Average per church	$3,800	$925	$1,138	
Debt—Churches reporting		1		
Amount reported		$109		
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting		1		
Amount reported		$300		
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	3			
Amount reported	$9,645			
Current expenses and improvements	$1,645			
Benevolences, missions, etc	$8,000			
Average expenditure per church	$3,215			
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	3	14		
Officers and teachers	15	16		
Scholars	115	605		

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: HUTTERIAN BRETHREN, MENNONITES

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 [1]
United States	6	17	8	700	982	275	226	274	200	45.2
South Dakota	6	15	8	700	837	275	226	274	200	45.2
Montana		2			145					

[1] Based on membership with age classification reported.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Jacob Huter, an Anabaptist minister of the sixteenth century, advocated the communistic conception of the ownership of property, and his followers, with other Anabaptists of widely varying creeds and practices, were bitterly persecuted. He himself, after being driven from place to place, was finally apprehended and burned at the stake at Innsbruck, in the Tyrol, in 1536, during what was probably the fiercest persecution suffered by any of the Anabaptist bodies in the sixteenth century. Despite the persecution, however, the community, which came to be known as the Hutterische Brueder, also the Hutterite Society, flourished, and at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War had 24 branches in Moravia. Although Joseph II had granted some of the Mennonites a certain measure of religious liberty, the Hutterites were at length driven from Austria and found a home successively in Rumania and Russia. In Russia many of them gave up the communistic idea. When their religious liberty was circumscribed by the imperial ukases of 1873 to 1875, they, together with many Russian Mennonites, came to the United States, settling in Bonhomme County, S. Dak., and its vicinity, in 1874, where they have prospered, and whence they have spread into adjoining counties. They still consider themselves Germans and use a peculiar dialect of the German language exclusively in their religious services and in their homes.

In doctrine the church is practically in accord with other Mennonite bodies, except in so far as it adheres to the communistic idea; and the same thing is true of its general polity.

During the World War and later many Hutterian Brethren moved to Canada, where conscription was not so strictly enforced as in the United States. This accounts, in part at least, for the decrease in numbers during the past 10 years.

WORK

Special attention is paid to education, and each community has a school. At the age of 3 years the children enter a primary school, where the instruction is of a religious nature. At the age of 6 years they are advanced to a higher grade, where the common branches are taught, in connection with Bible history and the articles of faith as embodied in the catechism. As a result of this custom, the use of the Bible as a basis of instruction is by no means confined to the Sunday schools. There is no illiteracy in any of their communities. A book of poems, of nearly 900 pages, has been recently published in German.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

CONSERVATIVE AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CONSERVATIVE AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	7	1	6		
Members	691	94	597	13.6	86.4
Average per church	99	94	100		
Membership by sex:					
Male	335	49	286	14.6	85.4
Female	356	45	311	12.6	87.4
Males per 100 females	94.1	[3]	92.0		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years					
13 years and over	691	94	597	13.6	86.4
Church edifices:					
Number	8	1	7		
Value—Churches reporting	7	1	6		
Amount reported	$16,845	$1,200	$15,645	7.1	92.9
Average per church	$2,406	$1,200	$2,608		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	5	1	4		
Amount reported	$2,718	$111	$2,607	4.1	95.9
Current expenses and improvements	$1,138	$111	$1,027	9.8	90.2
Benevolences, missions, etc	$1,580		$1,580		100.0
Average expenditure per church	$544	$111	$652		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	6		6		
Officers and teachers	99		99		
Scholars	871		871		100.0

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 7 active organizations of the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, with 691 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 7 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age.

Of the 7 churches reporting value of church edifices, all reported "no debt" on such property and none reported parsonages.

Comparative data, 1926 and 1916.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926 and 1916. This body appeared in this form for the first time in 1916. The different churches were formerly identified with the Amish Mennonites or the Old Order Amish Mennonites.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: CONSERVATIVE AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations)	7	13
Increase [1] over preceding census:		
Number	−6	
Per cent [2]		
Members	691	1,066
Increase [1] over preceding census:		
Number	−375	
Per cent	−35.2	
Average membership per church	99	82
Church edifices:		
Number	8	13
Value—Churches reporting	7	12
Amount reported	$16,845	$20,060
Average per church	$2,406	$1,672
Debt—Churches reporting		2
Amount reported		$250
Expenditures during year:		
Churches reporting	5	11
Amount reported	$2,718	$3,517
Current expenses and improvements	$1,138	$1,370
Benevolences, missions, etc	$1,580	$2,147
Average expenditure per church	$544	$320
Sunday schools:		
Churches reporting	6	11
Officers and teachers	99	95
Scholars	871	882

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3 and 4 present the statistics for the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for the State of Maryland, and for "Other States" in combination, the number and membership of the churches for the two censuses, 1926 and 1916, and also gives the data for Sunday schools in 1926.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CONSERVATIVE AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	**7**	**1**	**6**	**691**	**94**	**597**	**335**	**356**	**94.1**
East North Central:									
Indiana	1		1	142		142	75	67	
Illinois	1	1		94	94		49	45	
Michigan	1		1	42		42	22	20	
West North Central:									
Iowa	1		1	183		183	77	106	72.6
South Atlantic:									
Delaware	1		1	61		61	30	31	
Maryland	2		2	169		169	82	87	

Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1926 AND 1916, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, 1926, BY STATES: CONSERVATIVE AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926 or 1916]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES		NUMBER OF MEMBERS		SUNDAY SCHOOLS, 1926		
	1926	1916	1926	1916	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**7**	**13**	**691**	**1,066**	**6**	**99**	**871**
Maryland	2	3	169	120	2	26	250
Other States	5	10	522	946	4	73	621

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

In the movement toward more aggressive work and a more liberal interpretation of the Confession of Faith among the Amish Mennonites, quite a number have abandoned certain features of the older churches. A number of congregations in the United States and a smaller number in Ontario holding the same or similar views have united in an annual conference, under the name of the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church.

Most of the congregations have regular houses of worship, Sunday schools, and occasional evening meetings. The government of the church is more definitely congregational than in the Mennonite Church, and what is allowed or required by one congregation may not be in another.

The language generally used is German, though occasionally English is also used. The strict rules regarding attire, adhered to in the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church, are somewhat modified, though hooks and eyes are generally used instead of buttons for men's vests and coats.

WORK

This body has only made a beginning in missionary and philanthropic work. Until recently, whatever the churches contributed was applied through other Mennonite bodies, and in local benevolences and nondenominational enterprises, but at the annual conference in 1916 it was decided to do tentative missionary work in the Ozark Mountains, Mo., where only intermittent evangelistic efforts had up to that time been put forth; but the plan of opening a mission in that region, and later, of one in Detroit, was abandoned, and at present there is no established mission work. The church has founded a children's home at Grantsville, Md., for orphaned or dependent or needy children, regardless of race or parental religion. This home is used as a temporary abode for its inmates until suitable permanent homes are secured for them. In 1926 it had 71 inmates and the current expenses for the last fiscal year were $5,571. The total number of children admitted since the home was opened is 388.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

OLD ORDER AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: OLD ORDER AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	71	14	57		
Members	6,006	1,217	4,789	20.3	79.7
Average per church	85	87	84		
Membership by sex:					
Male	2,874	568	2,306	19.8	80.2
Female	3,132	649	2,483	20.7	79.3
Males per 100 females	91.8	87.5	92.9		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	4	4			
13 years and over	5,755	1,138	4,617	19.8	80.2
Age not reported	247	75	172	30.4	69.6
Per cent under 13 years [3]	0.1	0.4			
Church edifices:					
Number	6	1	5		
Value—Churches reporting	5	1	4		
Amount reported	$20,300	$2,500	$17,800	12.3	87.7
Average per church	$4,060	$2,500	$4,450		
Debt—Churches reporting	1		1		
Amount reported	$1,100		$1,100		100.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	4	1	3		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	35	10	25		
Amount reported	$8,011	$2,901	$5,110	36.2	63.8
Current expenses and improvements	$2,407	$478	$1,929	19.9	80.1
Benevolences, missions, etc	$5,604	$2,423	$3,181	43.2	56.8
Average expenditure per church	$229	$290	$204		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	13	3	10		
Officers and teachers	116	42	74	36.2	63.8
Scholars	898	335	563	37.3	62.7

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 71 active Old Order Amish Mennonite churches, with 6,006 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 71 churches and the classification by age was reported by 65 churches, including, however, only 1 which reported any members under 13 years of age. There were no parsonages reported by this body.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: OLD ORDER AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	71	88	46	22
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−17	42	24	
Per cent [2]				
Members	6,006	7,665	5,043	2,038
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−1,659	2,622	3,005	
Per cent	−21.6	52.0	147.4	
Average membership per church	85	87	110	93
Church edifices:				
Number	6		4	1
Value—Churches reporting	5		4	
Amount reported	$20,300		$6,700	$1,500
Average per church	$4,060		$1,675	
Debt—Churches reporting	1			
Amount reported	$1,100			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	35	4		
Amount reported	$8,011	$406		
Current expenses and improvements	$2,407	$168		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$5,604	$238		
Average expenditure per church	$229	$102		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	13	5	6	
Officers and teachers	116	19	66	
Scholars	898	242	493	

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Table 5 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported expenditures, in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church, and for this reason no table is given showing the value of church property and the debt on such property. The States omitted from Table 5 can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

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TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: OLD ORDER AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	**71**	**14**	**57**	**6,006**	**1,217**	**4,789**	**2,874**	**3,132**	**91.8**
Middle Atlantic:									
Pennsylvania	13	------	13	1,471	--------	1,471	720	751	95.9
East North Central:									
Ohio	13	1	12	1,396	54	1,342	678	718	94.4
Indiana	12	7	5	1,213	791	422	566	647	87.5
Illinois	5	------	5	436	--------	436	202	234	86.3
Michigan	3	------	3	144	--------	144	69	75	--------
West North Central:									
Iowa	5	------	5	306	--------	306	145	161	90.1
Missouri	1	------	1	33	--------	33	16	17	--------
Nebraska	1	------	1	101	--------	101	51	50	--------
Kansas	9	3	6	446	167	279	211	235	89.8
South Atlantic:									
Delaware	1	1	------	63	63	--------	31	32	--------
Maryland	1	------	1	44	--------	44	21	23	--------
Virginia	1	------	1	62	--------	62	31	31	--------
West South Central:									
Oklahoma	3	------	3	137	--------	137	63	74	--------
Mountain:									
Montana	1	------	1	12	--------	12	5	7	--------
Pacific:									
Oregon	2	2	------	142	142	--------	65	77	--------

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: OLD ORDER AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 [1]
United States	**71**	**88**	**46**	**6,006**	**7,665**	**5,043**	**4**	**5,755**	**247**	**0.1**
Pennsylvania	13	12	10	1,471	1,168	1,574	------	1,471	------	------
Ohio	13	20	9	1,396	2,256	1,245	------	1,396	------	------
Indiana	12	20	6	1,213	1,942	627	------	1,213	------	------
Illinois	5	6	4	436	508	267	------	436	------	------
Michigan	3	6	2	144	225	194	------	119	25	------
Iowa	5	5	2	306	583	211	------	306	------	------
Kansas	9	8	5	446	484	467	------	301	145	------
Maryland	1	------	3	44	--------	165	------	--------	44	------
Oklahoma	3	4	------	137	213	--------	------	137	------	------
Other States	7	7	5	413	286	293	4	376	33	1.1

[1] Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: OLD ORDER AMISH MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**71**	**35**	**$8,011**	**$2,407**	**$5,604**	**13**	**116**	**898**
Pennsylvania	13	10	995	245	750	--------	--------	--------
Ohio	13	4	879	228	651	1	2	50
Indiana	12	9	1,921	--------	1,921	--------	--------	--------
Iowa	5	3	318	25	293	3	16	168
Kansas	9	3	641	--------	641	2	24	160
Other States	19	6	3,257	1,909	1,348	7	74	520

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

As the movement along more progressive lines in the Amish Mennonite Church developed, resulting in a virtual reunion of the conservatively progressive element in that body with a kindred element in the Mennonite Church, it encountered not a little opposition from the more strictly conservative members. The result was a gradual separation and the organization of the Old Order Amish Mennonite Church about 1865. There have been three divisions on the question of the ban, but as the points of difference are difficult to define to those not familiar with the denomination, they are not presented in this statement.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

The members are very strict in the exercise of the ban, or shunning of expelled members. They have few Sunday schools, no evening or protracted meetings, church conferences, missions, or benevolent institutions. They worship for the most part in private houses, and use the German language generally in their services. They do not associate in religious work with other bodies, and are distinctive and severely plain in their costume, using hooks and eyes instead of buttons on coats and vests. They are, however, by no means a unit in all these things, and the line of distinction between them and other Amish Mennonites is in many cases not very clearly drawn. Some are constantly drawing nearer in their church relationship to the more progressive body which has affiliated with the Mennonite Church, and some of their congregations are liberal supporters of the missionary and charitable work conducted through the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of God in Christ (Mennonite) for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Church of God in Christ (Mennonite) consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	26	3	23		
Members	1,832	163	1,669	8.9	91.1
Average per church	70	54	73		
Membership by sex:					
Male	808	79	729	9.8	90.2
Female	964	84	880	8.7	91.3
Sex not reported	60		60		
Males per 100 females	83.8	(3)	82.8		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years					
13 years and over	872	13	859	1.5	98.5
Age not reported	960	150	810	15.6	84.4
Church edifices:					
Number	18	3	15		
Value—Churches reporting	18	3	15		
Amount reported	$78,850	$5,550	$73,300	7.0	93.0
Average per church	$4,381	$1,850	$4,887		
Debt—Churches reporting	2		2		
Amount reported	$4,709		$4,709		100.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	4	1	3		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	18	2	16		
Amount reported	$7,705	$690	$7,015	9.0	91.0
Current expenses and improvements	$4,192	$50	$4,142	1.2	98.8
Benevolences, missions, etc	$1,863	$490	$1,373	26.3	73.7
Not classified	$1,650	$150	$1,500	9.1	90.9
Average expenditure per church	$428	$345	$438		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	8	1	7		
Officers and teachers	45	3	42		
Scholars	436	14	422	3.2	96.8

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 26 active organizations of the Church of God in Christ (Mennonite), with 1,832 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 22 churches and the classification by age was reported by 9 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	26	21	18	18
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	5	3		
Per cent [1]				
Members	1,832	1,125	562	471
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	707	563	91	
Per cent	62.8	100.2	19.3	
Average membership per church	70	54	31	26
Church edifices:				
Number	18	16	2	3
Value—Churches reporting	18	14	2	
Amount reported	$78,850	$23,815	$1,600	$1,600
Average per church	$4,381	$1,701	$800	
Debt—Churches reporting	2	1		
Amount reported	$4,709	$400		
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	18	17		
Amount reported	$7,705	$6,333		
Current expenses and improvements	$4,192	$3,423		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$1,863	$2,910		
Not classified	$1,650			
Average expenditure per church	$428	$373		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	8	10		
Officers and teachers	45	40		
Scholars	436	675		

[1] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Church of God in Christ (Mennonite) by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified by age, so far as reported. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	**26**	**3**	**23**	**1,832**	**163**	**1,669**	**808**	**964**	**60**	**83.8**
East North Central:										
Ohio	2	1	1	60	25	35	28	32	-------	-------
Michigan	2	------	2	150	-------	150	70	80	-------	-------
West North Central:										
Missouri	3	------	3	39	-------	39	8	6	25	-------
North Dakota	3	1	2	61	13	48	30	31	-------	-------
Kansas	11	------	11	1,123	-------	1,123	492	596	35	82.6
West South Central:										
Oklahoma	3	1	2	329	125	204	150	179	-------	83.8
Texas	1	------	1	20	-------	20	10	10	-------	-------
Pacific:										
California	1	------	1	50	-------	50	20	30	-------	-------

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926	
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	13 years and over	Age not reported
United States	**26**	**21**	**18**	**1,832**	**1,125**	**562**	**872**	**960**
Michigan	2	2	3	150	132	61	-------	150
Missouri	3	------	2	39	-------	58	14	25
North Dakota	3	------	------	61	-------	-------	36	25
Kansas	11	9	5	1,123	697	314	793	330
Oklahoma	3	3	------	329	155	-------	29	300
Texas	1	3	------	20	69	-------	-------	20
Other States	3	4	8	110	72	129	-------	110

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**26**	**18**	**18**	**$78,850**	**2**	**$4,709**
Kansas	11	10	10	47,500	2	4,709
Other States	15	8	8	31,350	----------	----------

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (MENNONITE)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR					SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**26**	**18**	**$7,705**	**$4,192**	**$1,863**	**$1,650**	**8**	**45**	**436**
Kansas	11	9	6,209	4,142	1,167	900	4	31	347
Oklahoma	3	3	435	----------	85	350	1	3	17
Other States	12	6	1,061	50	611	400	3	11	72

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

Largely owing to the difficulty of communication between different sections of the country, the same general reform movement which resulted in the development of the Amish Mennonite Church in Europe and the Reformed Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania occasioned in 1859 the organization in Ohio of the Church of God in Christ as a separate body. The leader in this movement was John Holdeman, who was born in Ohio in 1832 and united with the Mennonite Church at the age of 21 years. At the age of 25 years, believing that he was called of God to preach, but not being recognized by the church as a properly ordained preacher, he began to hold independent services and soon gathered a company of followers. Asserting that the Mennonite Church had shifted from the old foundation, he directed his efforts chiefly toward the reestablishment and maintenance of the order and discipline of the church as he understood it had been in Menno Simons' time. This included particularly the strict exercise of the ban, or the shunning of expelled members, and the refusal of fellowship with those of other denominations. Holdeman traveled extensively in an effort to bring others to his views, and in 1859 the full organization of the body was completed. As the Russian Mennonites began to come into the country in 1870, several hundred of them joined the movement.

As the years passed by, and even before the death of Holdeman in 1900, the views on discipline were considerably relaxed, and since his death, largely through the influence of the Russian Mennonite membership, increasing leniency has appeared in the attitude of the denomination toward other religious bodies, especially toward the parent body.

In addition to the strict interpretation of the letter of the Confession of Faith, some characteristic doctrines are taught, notable among them being the refusal to take interest on money loaned, which is called usury and considered wrong.

A biweekly periodical called the Messenger of Truth with a circulation of about a thousand copies, printed at Scottdale, Pa., is the official organ of the denomination.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

OLD ORDER MENNONITE CHURCH (WISLER)

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Old Order Mennonite Church (Wisler) for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Old Order Mennonite Church (Wisler) consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: OLD ORDER MENNONITE CHURCH (WISLER)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	19	2	17		
Members	2,227	75	2,152	3.4	96.6
Average per church	117	38	127		
Membership by sex:					
Male	1,083	34	1,049	3.1	96.9
Female	1,144	41	1,103	3.6	96.4
Males per 100 females	94.7	[3]	95.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years					
13 years and over	2,047	75	1,972	3.7	96.3
Age not reported	180		180		100.0
Church edifices:					
Number	19	1	18		
Value—Churches reporting	18	1	17		
Amount reported	$68,700	$3,000	$65,700	4.4	95.6
Average per church	$3,817	$3,000	$3,865		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	12	1	11		
Amount reported	$2,504	$100	$2,404	4.0	96.0
Current expenses and improvements	$376	$75	$301	19.9	80.1
Benevolences, missions, etc	$2,128	$25	$2,103	1.2	98.8
Average expenditure per church	$209	$100	$219		

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 19 active organizations of the Old Order Mennonite Church (Wisler), with 2,227 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 19 churches and the classification by age was reported by 17 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age.

Of the 18 churches reporting value of church edifices, none reported debt on such property; no parsonages were reported; and the church maintains no Sunday schools.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: OLD ORDER MENNONITE CHURCH (WISLER)

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	19	22	9	15
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−3	13	−6	
Per cent [2]				
Members	2,227	1,608	655	610
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	619	953	45	
Per cent	38.5	145.5	7.4	
Average membership per church	117	73	73	41
Church edifices:				
Number	19	23	10	12
Value—Churches reporting	18	18	9	
Amount reported	$68,700	$43,900	$17,950	$8,015
Average per church	$3,817	$2,439	$1,994	
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	12	5		
Amount reported	$2,504	$185		
Current expenses and improvements	$376	$185		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$2,128			
Average expenditure per church	$209	$37		

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Old Order Mennonite Church (Wisler) by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified by age, so far as reported. Table 5 shows, for 1926 alone, the value of church property and the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc. Separate presentation in Table 5 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the value of church edifices, in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from Table 5 can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: OLD ORDER MENNONITE CHURCH (WISLER)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females [1]
United States	19	2	17	2,227	75	2,152	1,083	1,144	94.7
Middle Atlantic:									
Pennsylvania	6		6	1,600		1,600	800	800	100.0
East North Central:									
Ohio	6	2	4	272	75	197	121	151	80.1
Indiana	4		4	122		122	55	67	
Michigan	1		1	53		53	27	26	
South Atlantic:									
Virginia	2		2	180		180	80	100	80.0

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: OLD ORDER MENNONITE CHURCH (WISLER)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926	
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	13 years and over	Age not reported
United States	19	22	9	2,227	1,608	655	2,047	180
Pennsylvania	6	7	------	1,600	960	------	1,600	------
Ohio	6	8	6	272	275	353	272	------
Indiana	4	4	2	122	155	241	122	------
Other States	3	3	1	233	218	61	53	180

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH EXPENDITURES, BY STATES, 1926: OLD ORDER MENNONITE CHURCH (WISLER)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR			
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.
United States	19	19	18	$68,700	12	$2,504	$376	$2,128
Pennsylvania	6	6	6	30,000	6	2,000	------	2,000
Ohio	6	5	5	16,200	4	329	271	58
Indiana	4	5	4	14,500	------	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other States[2]	3	3	3	8,000	2	175	105	70

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.
[2] The figures for expenditures include data for 1 church in Indiana.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The development of the progressive movement in the Menonnite Church about the middle of the nineteenth century was accompanied by considerable opposition, manifesting itself especially in regard to the introduction of the English language into the church services, the practice of holding evening meetings, revival meetings, Sunday schools, and certain other "innovations" which were regarded as unorthodox. Other minor matters, magnified into important issues, were added to these differences of opinion, and under the lead of Jacob Wisler, the first Mennonite bishop in Indiana, a separation took place in 1870. He was disowned by the Menonnite Church, and, although various efforts at reconciliation were subsequently made, he and a small following in Indiana and Ohio formed a separate conference, claiming to be the real Mennonite Church.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

In 1886 the corresponding conservative element of the Mennonite Church in Canada formed a separate body along practically the same lines; others again in Pennsylvania in 1893 and in Virginia in 1901. All of these separated bodies are now united in their work and with few exceptions oppose Sunday schools, the use of the English language in public worship, evening and revival meetings, higher education, and missions.

The division reported 10 years ago in regard to the use of telephones still persists in the West, though in Lancaster County, Pa., the church is not divided, and the eastern wing acknowledges both western branches as in fellowship with themselves. It would be difficult to report these bodies otherwise than as one.

In matters of doctrine the Old Order Mennonites adhere very strictly to the Dort Confession of Faith. Each section has a separate district conference. There is no church periodical, and no organized charitable work, though the individual members are generous in case of need among themselves.

REFORMED MENNONITE CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Reformed Mennonite Church for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Reformed Mennonite Church consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: REFORMED MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	31	6	25		
Members	1,117	177	940	15.8	84.2
Average per church	36	30	38		
Membership by sex:					
Male	387	41	346	10.6	89.4
Female	652	90	562	13.8	86.2
Sex not reported	78	46	32		
Males per 100 females	59.4	([3])	61.6		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years					
13 years and over	1,039	131	908	12.6	87.4
Age not reported	78	46	32		
Church edifices:					
Number	28	5	23		
Value—Churches reporting	28	5	23		
Amount reported	$108,800	$14,800	$94,000	13.6	86.4
Average per church	$3,886	$2,960	$4,087		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	27	4	23		
Amount reported	$20,565	$1,715	$18,850	8.3	91.7
Current expenses and improvements	$8,508	$296	$8,212	3.5	96.5
Benevolences, missions, etc	$11,232	$994	$10,238	8.8	91.2
Not classified	$825	$425	$400	51.5	48.5
Average expenditure per church	$762	$429	$820		

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 31 active organizations of the Reformed Mennonite Church, with 1,117 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by 29 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age.

Of the 28 churches reporting value of church edifices, all reported "no debt" on such property; no parsonages were reported; and the church maintains no Sunday schools.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: REFORMED MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	31	29	34	34
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	2	−5		
Per cent [2]				
Members	1,117	1,281	2,079	1,655
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−164	−798	424	
Per cent	−12.8	−38.4	25.6	
Average membership per church	36	44	61	49
Church edifices:				
Number	28	29	29	29
Value—Churches reporting	28	29	29	
Amount reported	$108,800	$85,965	$52,650	$52,650
Average per church	$3,886	$2,964	$1,816	
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	27	27		
Amount reported	$20,565	$5,606		
Current expenses and improvements	$8,508	$2,117		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$11,232	$3,489		
Not classified	$825			
Average expenditure per church	$762	$208		

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease. [2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Reformed Mennonite Church by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified by age, so far as reported. Table 5 shows, for 1926 alone, the value of church property and the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc. Separate presentation in Table 5 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the value of church edifices and expenditures, in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from this table can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: REFORMED MENNONITE CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females ([1])
United States	**31**	**6**	**25**	**1,117**	**177**	**940**	**387**	**652**	**78**	**59.4**
Middle Atlantic:										
New York	3		3	60		60	25	35		
Pennsylvania	17	2	15	632	75	557	205	349	78	58.7
East North Central:										
Ohio	5	1	4	215	36	179	86	129		66.7
Indiana	1	1		27	27		8	19		
Illinois	1	1		32	32		11	21		
Michigan	1		1	99		99	37	62		
West North Central:										
Missouri	1		1	9		9	2	7		
Nebraska	1	1		7	7		2	5		
Kansas	1		1	36		36	11	25		

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: REFORMED MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926	
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	13 years and over	Age not reported
United States	**31**	**29**	**34**	**1,117**	**1,281**	**2,079**	**1,039**	**78**
New York	3	3	3	60	85	137	60	-------
Pennsylvania	17	14	16	632	671	1,218	554	78
Ohio	5	7	7	215	317	477	215	-------
Michigan	1	2	3	99	108	63	99	-------
Other States	5	3	5	111	100	184	111	-------

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH EXPENDITURES, BY STATES, 1926: REFORMED MENNONITE CHURCH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices and expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified
United States	**31**	**28**	**28**	**$108,800**	**27**	**$20,565**	**$8,508**	**$11,232**	**$825**
New York	3	3	3	5,000	3	450	200	250	-------
Pennsylvania	17	15	15	77,300	15	16,472	7,631	8,416	425
Ohio	5	5	5	15,500	5	2,163	291	1,872	-------
Other States	6	5	5	11,000	4	1,480	386	694	400

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

A movement among the Mennonites in Pennsylvania along practically the same lines as that which, under the leadership of Jacob Ammon, had resulted in the division in Europe in 1698 was inaugurated by Francis Herr and his son John Herr and resulted in 1812 in the organization of the Reformed Mennonite Church, with John Herr as pastor and bishop. He condemned the church as "a corrupt and dead body," and labored for the restoration of purity in teaching and the maintenance of discipline.

The Reformed Mennonites accept the 18 articles of the Dort Confession and retain the general features of church organization of the Mennonite Church. Although they do not hold conferences, and have no published discipline for the guidance and regulation of the church body, they are very strict in their discipline, especially in the use of the ban, have no fellowship whatever with other religious bodies, and hold that the doctrine of nonresistance is one of the cardinal principles of the gospel.

They have no Sunday schools, no educational institutions, and no missionary work, home or foreign, but are very zealous in the performance of every known duty within the confines of their religious life. They are charitable toward those in need, honest and industrious, and generally prosperous.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	136	19	117	14.0	86.0
Members	21,582	3,106	18,476	14.4	85.6
Average per church	159	163	158	-------	-------
Membership by sex:					
Male	7,805	1,220	6,585	15.6	84.4
Female	8,638	1,508	7,130	17.5	82.5
Sex not reported	5,139	378	4,761	7.4	92.6
Males per 100 females	90.4	80.9	92.4	-------	-------
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	8	6	2	-------	-------
13 years and over	18,706	2,770	15,936	14.8	85.2
Age not reported	2,868	330	2,538	11.5	88.5
Per cent under 13 years [3]	(4)	0.2	(4)	-------	-------
Church edifices:					
Number	131	19	112	14.5	85.5
Value—Churches reporting	130	18	112	13.8	86.2
Amount reported	$1,212,350	$330,600	$881,750	27.3	72.7
Average per church	$9,326	$18,367	$7,873	-------	-------
Debt—Churches reporting	13	5	8	-------	-------
Amount reported	$20,995	$15,600	$5,395	74.3	25.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	98	10	88	-------	-------
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	22	4	18	-------	-------
Amount reported	$112,850	$32,000	$80,850	28.4	71.6
Debt—Churches reporting	4	1	3	-------	-------
Amount reported	$6,700	$2,000	$4,700	29.9	70.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage	13	2	11	-------	-------
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	131	18	113	13.7	86.3
Amount reported	$378,794	$65,489	$313,305	17.3	82.7
Current expenses and improvements	$196,411	$41,205	$155,206	21.0	79.0
Benevolences, missions, etc.	$182,383	$24,284	$158,099	13.3	86.7
Average expenditure per church	$2,892	$3,638	$2,773	-------	-------
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	130	18	112	13.8	86.2
Officers and teachers	1,923	325	1,598	16.9	83.1
Scholars	23,537	3,237	20,300	13.8	86.2

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Based on membership with age classification reported.
[4] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The data given for 1926 represent 136 active organizations of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America, with 21,582 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 98 churches and the classification by age was reported by 121 churches, including, however, only 5 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890. Figures for 1890 include those for the Apostolic Mennonite Church, which united with this denomination between 1890 and 1906.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	[1] 1890
Churches (local organizations)	136	113	90	47
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	23	23	43	----
Per cent [2]	20.4	----	----	----
Members	21,582	15,407	11,661	5,879
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	6,175	3,746	5,782	----
Per cent	40.1	32.1	98.4	----
Average membership per church	159	136	130	125
Church edifices:				
Number	131	107	89	44
Value—Churches reporting	130	106	84	----
Amount reported	$1,212,350	$544,560	$303,400	$120,550
Average per church	$9,326	$5,137	$3,612	----
Debt—Churches reporting	13	14	9	----
Amount reported	$20,995	$15,400	$5,690	----
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting	22	11	9	----
Amount reported	$112,850	$22,200	$19,050	----
Debt—Churches reporting	4	----	----	----
Amount reported	$6,700	----	----	----
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	131	107	----	----
Amount reported	$378,794	$149,237	----	----
Current expenses and improvements	$196,411	$72,813	----	----
Benevolences, missions, etc	$182,383	$76,424	----	----
Average expenditure per church	$2.892	$1,395	----	----
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	130	105	84	----
Officers and teachers	1,923	1,377	1,148	----
Scholars	23,537	17,594	12,472	----

[1] Statistics for 1890 include the Apostolic Mennonite Church, consolidated between 1890 and 1906 with this denomination.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches

reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each district in the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	**136**	**19**	**117**	**21,582**	**3,106**	**18,476**	**7,805**	**8,638**	**5,139**	**90.4**
Middle Atlantic:										
Pennsylvania	25	10	15	2,982	1,494	1,488	843	1,092	1,047	77.2
East North Central:										
Ohio	7	1	6	2,002	105	1,897	393	422	1,187	93.1
Indiana	3	1	2	1,215	129	1,086	559	656	----	85.2
Illinois	2	1	1	208	50	158	102	106	----	96.2
West North Central:										
Minnesota	7	----	7	1,092	----	1,092	424	508	160	83.5
Iowa	4	----	4	1,042	----	1,042	484	558	----	86.7
Missouri	1	----	1	160	----	160	----	----	160	----
North Dakota	3	----	3	239	----	239	24	21	194	----
South Dakota	6	----	6	1,263	----	1,263	629	634	----	99.2
Nebraska	4	1	3	1,010	330	680	499	511	----	97.7
Kansas	35	3	32	6,657	587	6,070	2,360	2,534	1,763	93.1
West South Central:										
Oklahoma	19	----	19	1,595	----	1,595	486	576	533	84.4
Texas	1	----	1	63	----	63	35	28	----	----
Mountain:										
Montana	2	----	2	212	----	212	98	84	30	----
Idaho	2	----	2	221	----	221	116	105	----	110.5
Colorado	2	----	2	52	----	52	24	28	----	----
Pacific:										
Washington	4	----	4	336	----	336	167	169	----	98.8
Oregon	2	----	2	222	----	222	87	70	65	----
California	7	2	5	1,011	411	600	475	536	----	88.6

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

In March, 1859, two small Mennonite congregations in Lee County, Iowa, composed of immigrants from southern Germany, held a conference to discuss the possible union of all the Mennonite bodies in America. Until that time, while in a general way the different organizations had held to the same doctrines, they had not cooperated actively, or at least had taken no concerted part in any particular work. The resolutions adopted at this meeting drew the attention of all the Mennonite bodies. Among those especially interested was John Oberholzer, of Bucks County, Pa., who had taken advanced ground in the matter of aggressive work, and, together with 16 other ministers, having been charged with

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 [1]
United States	**136**	**113**	**90**	**21,582**	**15,407**	**11,661**	**8**	**18,706**	**2,868**	[2]
Pennsylvania	25	18	14	2,982	1,992	1,675	2	2,724	256	0.1
Ohio	7	8	9	2,002	1,954	1,526	------	2,002	------	------
Indiana	3	1	2	1,215	904	920	1	1,214	------	0.1
Minnesota	7	6	1	1,092	990	262	------	763	329	------
Iowa	4	2	4	1,042	408	767	------	1,042	------	------
North Dakota	3	2	------	239	107	------	------	194	45	------
South Dakota	6	5	5	1,263	769	562	1	1,047	215	0.1
Nebraska	4	6	5	1,010	927	675	------	150	860	------
Kansas	35	27	21	6,657	4,937	3,581	1	5,493	1,163	[2]
Oklahoma	19	15	18	1,595	915	1,145	------	1,595	------	------
Montana	2	4	1	212	111	5	------	212	------	------
Idaho	2	3	------	221	257	------	------	221	------	------
Washington	4	2	1	336	124	38	------	336	------	------
California	7	8	2	1,011	560	100	3	1,008	------	0.3
Other States	8	6	7	705	452	401	------	705	------	------

[1] Based on membership with age classification reported. [2] Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

insubordination to the then established form of church government in his conference and having been disowned by that conference, had organized a separate conference in eastern Pennsylvania in October, 1847. The publication by Oberholzer of the Religiöser Botschafter, founded in 1852 and later styled Christliches Volksblatt, gave wide publicity and strong support to the new union movement, which promised to advance along broader and more liberal lines than his conference had permitted. The Iowa congregations extended a general invitation to all Mennonite congregations and conferences, and in May, 1860, at West Point, Iowa, the first effort was made to hold a general conference of Mennonites in America. While this conference was not completely representative, questions of education, missions, and unity were discussed, and the organization of the General Conference of Mennonites in America was brought about. On the basis of uniting in the support of mission work, other congregations were soon added, and the membership and influence of the body grew rapidly. Many of the congregations whose members had come from Russia and Germany since 1850, and who had become acquainted with the movement before leaving Europe, joined the new organization. Among the Amish Mennonites who came from Europe and settled in Ohio about 1840 were some who favored greater leniency in discipline, and who separated from the Amish body on that account. They were known as the Apostolic Mennonite Church, but since the organization of the General Conference of Mennonites they have affiliated with that body.

The church is well organized and aggressive in the various lines of Christian effort, and is rapidly increasing in numbers in the United States and Canada.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine this body is, with few exceptions, in strict accord with other Mennonites, the main difference being that in most of the congregations the passage in I Corinthians XI, 4–15, is not understood as making obligatory the use of a covering for the head of female members during prayer and worship,

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**136**	**131**	**130**	**$1,212,350**	**13**	**$20,995**	**22**	**$112,850**	**4**	**$6,700**
Pennsylvania	25	25	25	259,400	4	8,300	------	[1]	------	[1]
Ohio	7	7	7	149,000	------	------	------	[1]	------	------
Indiana	3	3	3	87,500	------	------	------	[1]	------	------
Minnesota	7	7	7	41,000	------	------	------	------	------	------
Iowa	4	4	4	46,000	------	------	3	18,600	------	------
North Dakota	3	3	3	14,500	------	------	------	------	------	------
South Dakota	6	6	6	53,400	1	1,620	------	[1]	------	[1]
Nebraska	4	5	4	31,000	------	------	------	------	------	------
Kansas	35	34	34	296,100	5	4,650	4	12,500	------	------
Oklahoma	19	17	17	54,200	------	------	------	[1]	------	------
Washington	4	4	4	26,500	1	150	------	------	------	------
California	7	7	7	92,700	1	6,000	------	[1]	------	------
Other States [2]	12	9	9	61,050	1	275	15	81,750	4	6,700

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

[2] The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 9 churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and California.

and that the passage in John XIII, 4–15, is not generally believed to command the institution of an ordinance (that of foot washing) to be observed according to the example there described. In the matter of conformity to the world, some congregations adhere less strictly than others to the articles of faith adopted by the body as a whole. Their common ground of union is contained in the following confession:

This conference recognizes and acknowledges the sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only and infallible rule of faith and life; for "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." In matters of faith it is therefore required of the congregations which unite with the conference that, accepting the above confession, they hold fast to the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, baptism on confession of faith, the refusal of all oaths, the Christ-taught doctrine of peace and nonresistance, and the practice of a scriptural church discipline.

ORGANIZATION

The local church is autonomous in its government, although appeal may be made to the local and district conferences, which meet annually. The General Conference meets every three years, and is not a legislative, but an advisory body, having no power to act in any way prejudicial to the rights of the individual congregations. Any congregation of any Mennonite body, upon agreeing to and adopting the constitution, may become a member of the General Conference on approval by a majority vote of the conference, every congregation having 1 vote for every 30 communicant members or fraction thereof. This conference elects officers and a board of 9 trustees of which 3 members are chosen at each regular meeting. It also chooses a Board of Home Missions, a Board of Foreign Missions, and a Board of Publication.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**136**	**131**	**$378,794**	**$196,411**	**$182,383**	**130**	**1,923**	**23,537**
Pennsylvania	25	22	45,383	32,888	12,495	24	300	2,551
Ohio	7	7	36,448	20,512	15,936	7	156	2,022
Indiana	3	3	29,252	8,894	20,358	3	86	1,599
Minnesota	7	6	17,213	4,652	12,561	7	82	1,166
Iowa	4	4	14,885	9,267	5,618	4	120	898
North Dakota	3	3	2,464	1,125	1,339	3	23	305
South Dakota	6	6	25,969	12,860	13,109	6	107	1,540
Nebraska	4	4	19,811	8,070	11,741	4	74	1,302
Kansas	35	35	111,082	49,095	61,987	32	488	6,951
Oklahoma	19	19	18,087	10,590	7,497	18	146	1,899
Washington	4	4	20,608	18,528	2,080	4	61	431
California	7	7	18,378	9,074	9,304	7	107	1,282
Other States	12	11	19,214	10,856	8,358	11	173	1,591

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY DISTRICTS, 1926: GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

DISTRICT	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	**136**	**21,582**	**130**	**$1,212,350**	**13**	**$20,995**	**131**	**$378,794**	**130**	**23,537**
Eastern	25	2,982	25	259,400	4	8,300	22	45,383	24	2,551
Middle	17	4,627	17	326,500			17	87,680	17	5,074
Northern	20	3,386	19	130,150	1	1,620	18	57,985	20	4,051
Pacific	15	1,790	14	130,200	2	6,150	15	47,600	15	2,307
Western	59	8,797	55	366,100	6	4,925	59	140,146	54	9,554

WORK

Home missionary work is carried on through the agency of the Board of Home Missions, and has for its object the supplying of small and needy congregations with ministers, the sending of evangelists to localities where the gospel is seldom preached, and the conducting of missions in cities. The report for 1926 shows 27 missionaries employed in this work, 7 of these on part time. The contributions amounted to $26,000. Besides this work of the General Conference the 6 district conferences have also assisted small groups in their respective districts to the extent of about $10,000.

The work among the Indians of this country is under the care of the Board of Foreign Missions. It is done among the Cheyennes in Oklahoma and Montana, the Arapahoes in Oklahoma, and the Hopis in Arizona. There are 12 churches and 562 members, and the value of the property at 12 stations is $60,000. The

foreign board also has charge of the work in the Central Provinces, India, and in the province of Chihli, China. The report for 1926 shows 10 stations and 44 outstations and preaching places; 61 American missionaries, 252 native helpers; 12 churches with 1,712 members; 112 schools, with 2,769 pupils and 132 teachers; 7 dispensaries, treating 23,701 patients; a leper home with 500 inmates; 2 orphanages with 214 children; and 55 Sunday schools with 3,783 pupils. The value of the property in these mission fields is $264,000, and the amount contributed for the work in 1926 was $120,000.

The educational institutions that receive the major part of their support from the General Conference churches are 2 colleges, 1 academy, and 1 seminary, with a total enrollment of about 1,000. These institutions are at the present time conducting an endowment campaign for $1,250,000. The value of their real estate, equipment, and present endowment is about $2,000,000. The enrollment at 9 preparatory schools in 1926 was over 200. The 86 Christian Endeavor societies had a membership of 8,403. The Mennonite Book Concern, Berne, Ind., is Conference property. The church papers are 2 weekly papers, 1 of which is in German; a bilingual monthly; a mission quarterly in both languages; a German and an English yearbook; and German Sunday school quarterlies.

The philanthropic work of the denomination in 1926 included a home for the aged and five hospitals, of which some combine hospital, training school, and home for the aged. Over 3,000 patients received treatment in the last year. The total property value approaches $750,000. Tons of clothing and thousands of dollars have been sent to over 18,000 coreligionists who have been enabled to escape persecution in Russia and have found welcome asylum in Canada.

DEFENSELESS MENNONITES

STATISTICS

The data given for 1926 represent 10 active churches of the Defenseless Mennonites, all reported as being in rural territory. The total membership was 1,060, comprising 469 males and 591 females. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 10 churches and the classification by age was reported by 9 churches, including 5 which reported members under 13 years of age. There was no debt on the two parsonages reported.

The membership of the Defenseless Mennonites consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 1 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 1.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: DEFENSELESS MENNONITES

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	10	11	14	9
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−1	−3	5	
Per cent [2]				
Members	1,060	854	967	856
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	206	−113	111	
Per cent	24.1	−11.7	13.0	
Average membership per church	106	78	69	95
Church edifices:				
Number	10	11	13	8
Value—Churches reporting	10	11	13	
Amount reported	$87,200	$33,500	$16,800	$10,540
Average per church	$8,720	$3,045	$1,292	
Debt—Churches reporting	1	1		
Amount reported	$4,500	$500		
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting	2		1	
Amount reported	$6,500		$500	
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	10	10		
Amount reported	$37,001	$10,241		
Current expenses and improvements	$13,611	$6,057		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$23,390	$4,184		
Average expenditure per church	$3,700	$1,024		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	10	10	13	
Officers and teachers	154	144	142	
Scholars	1,386	1,423	1,102	

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease. [2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Defenseless Mennonites by States. Table 2 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches and the membership classified by sex. Table 3 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses

from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 5 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 4 and 5 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 2.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: DEFENSELESS MENNONITES

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
			Male	Female	Males per 100 females [1]
United States	10	1,060	469	591	79.4
East North Central:					
Ohio	3	376	179	197	90.9
Indiana	4	387	164	223	73.5
Illinois	2	247	106	141	75.2
West North Central:					
Kansas	1	50	20	30	

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: DEFENSELESS MENNONITES

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 [1]
United States	10	11	14	1,060	854	967	69	824	167	7.7
Ohio	3	4	3	376	288	219	2	374		0.5
Indiana	4	3	4	387	315	250	55	332		14.2
Other States	3	4	7	297	251	498	12	118	167	9.2

[1] Based on membership with age classification reported.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION.[1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

About 1860 certain members of the Amish Mennonite Church, under the lead of Henry Egli, separated from that body on the ground that the church did not emphasize sufficiently the need of a definite experience of conversion.

In general doctrine and polity they are not distinguishable from the Mennonite Church, with which body they maintain fraternal relations and in whose educational work they share.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: DEFENSELESS MENNONITES

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**10**	**10**	**10**	**$87,200**	**1**	**$4,500**	**2**	**$6,500**
Ohio	3	3	3	36,500	1	4,500	----	----
Indiana	4	4	4	29,000	----	----	----	(1)
Other States [2]	3	3	3	21,700	----	----	2	6,500

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.
[2] The figures for value of parsonages include data for 1 church in Indiana.

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: DEFENSELESS MENNONITES

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**10**	**10**	**$37,001**	**$13,611**	**$23,396**	**10**	**154**	**1,386**
Ohio	3	3	10,410	3,249	7,161	3	53	477
Indiana	4	4	16,725	9,650	7,075	4	56	509
Other States	3	3	9,866	712	9,154	3	45	400

WORK

In 1926 this denomination employed 2 home missionary and 2 city mission workers and contributed for their support $2,300. It has an orphanage at Flanagan, Ill., which during the year provided for 75 children and 7 workers, who receive their support from donations. The value of the orphanage property is estimated at $128,000.

The foreign work is carried on in connection with the Central Conference of Mennonites, under the name of the Congo Inland Mission. There are 4 stations occupied in West Central Africa, with 12 missionaries and a membership of about 200. Contributions for foreign work were $16,965. For charitable purposes not specified about $2,500 was contributed.

The denomination has no educational institution of its own, but contributes to the support of Bluffton Mennonite College and Seminary, Bluffton, Ohio, Fort Wayne Bible Training School, and Moody Bible Institute. There is also a Brotherhood Aid Association.

MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Mennonite Brethren in Christ for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	99	41	58	----	----
Members	5,882	3,117	2,765	53.0	47.0
Average per church	59	76	48	----	----
Membership by sex:					
Male	1,911	1,069	842	55.9	44.1
Female	2,914	1,721	1,193	59.1	40.9
Sex not reported	1,057	327	730	30.9	69.1
Males per 100 females	65.6	62.1	70.6	----	----
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	365	258	107	70.7	29.3
13 years and over	4,202	2,415	1,787	57.5	42.5
Age not reported	1,315	444	871	33.8	66.2
Per cent under 13 years [3]	8.0	9.7	5.6	----	----
Church edifices:					
Number	99	43	56	----	----
Value—Churches reporting	90	39	51	----	----
Amount reported	$544,643	$382,850	$161,793	70.3	29.7
Average per church	$6,052	$9,817	$3,172	----	----
Debt—Churches reporting	22	17	5	----	----
Amount reported	$58,677	$54,927	$3,750	93.6	6.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	49	16	33	----	----
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	51	25	26	----	----
Amount reported	$200,600	$143,200	$57,400	71.4	28.6
Debt—Churches reporting	15	10	5	----	----
Amount reported	$26,888	$22,800	$4,088	84.8	15.2
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage	25	9	16	----	----
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	96	41	55	----	----
Amount reported	$229,803	$136,347	$93,456	59.3	40.7
Current expenses and improvements	$133,004	$81,856	$51,148	61.5	38.5
Benevolences, missions, etc.	$65,781	$39,829	$25,952	60.5	39.5
Not classified	$31,018	$14,662	$16,356	47.3	52.7
Average expenditure per church	$2,394	$3,326	$1,699	----	----
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	93	40	53	----	----
Officers and teachers	1,216	659	557	54.2	45.8
Scholars	8,560	4,750	3,810	55.5	44.5

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 99 active organizations of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, with 5,882 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 86 churches and the classification by age was reported by 79 churches, including 45 which reported members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	99	108	68	45
Increase [1] over preceding census:				
Number	−9	40	23	
Per cent [2]	−8.3			
Members	5,882	4,737	2,801	1,113
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	1,145	1,936	1,688	
Per cent	24.2	69.1	151.7	
Average membership per church	59	44	41	25
Church edifices:				
Number	99	92	58	34
Value—Churches reporting	90	91	57	
Amount reported	$544,643	$223,648	$140,747	$39,600
Average per church	$6,052	$2,458	$2,469	
Debt—Churches reporting	22	13	8	
Amount reported	$58,677	$17,195	$756	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting	51	36	23	
Amount reported	$200,600	$61,425	$28,850	
Debt—Churches reporting	15			
Amount reported	$26,888			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	96	105		
Amount reported	$229,803	$91,317		
Current expenses and improvements	$133,004	$55,478		
Benevolences, missions, etc.	$65,781	$35,839		
Not classified	$31,018			
Average expenditure per church	$2,394	$870		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	93	101	59	
Officers and teachers	1,216	1,208	578	
Scholars	8,560	7,755	3,720	

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease. [2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Mennonite Brethren in Christ by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each conference in the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females [1]
United States	**99**	**41**	**58**	**5,882**	**3,117**	**2,765**	**1,911**	**2,914**	**1,057**	**65.6**
Middle Atlantic:										
Pennsylvania	26	19	7	2,127	1,777	350	871	1,221	35	71.3
East North Central:										
Ohio	10	4	6	494	170	324	144	279	71	51.6
Indiana	15	5	10	1,302	450	852	350	563	389	62.2
Michigan	30	10	20	1,314	595	719	297	455	562	65.3
West North Central:										
Iowa	2	1	1	131	66	65	52	79		
South Dakota	1		1	18		18	10	8		
Nebraska	7	1	6	243	14	229	92	151		60.9
Kansas	1		1	25		25	8	17		
West South Central:										
Oklahoma	1		1	23		23	6	17		
Mountain:										
Idaho	1		1	108		108	48	60		
Colorado	1		1	12		12	5	7		
Pacific:										
Washington	2		2	23		23	8	15		
California	2	1	1	62	45	17	20	42		

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 [1]
United States	**99**	**108**	**68**	**5,882**	**4,737**	**2,801**	**365**	**4,202**	**1,315**	**8.0**
Pennsylvania	26	30	21	2,127	1,799	998	239	1,853	35	11.4
Ohio	10	8	12	494	506	644	29	394	71	6.9
Indiana	15	8	9	1,302	493	448	58	855	389	6.4
Michigan	30	34	25	1,314	1,171	690	9	692	613	1.3
Iowa	2	3		131	102		1	64	66	
Nebraska	7	8		243	275		4	110	129	3.5
Kansas	1	3		25	59			25		
Colorado	1	5		12	81				12	
Washington	2	7	1	23	132	21		23		
Other States	5	2		211	119		25	186		11.8

[1] Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**99**	**99**	**90**	**$544,643**	**22**	**$58,677**	**51**	**$200,600**	**15**	**$26,888**
Pennsylvania	26	30	26	285,350	9	37,810	20	129,400	8	21,800
Ohio	10	9	9	31,350	1	4,500		(1)		
Indiana	15	14	14	81,993	2	4,200	6	19,000	3	2,550
Michigan	30	31	28	100,500	5	8,767	16	37,000	3	2,350
Nebraska	7	4	4	14,000	2	1,000		(1)		
Other States [2]	11	11	9	31,450	3	2,400	9	15,200	1	188

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

[2] The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 3 churches in Ohio and Nebraska.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR					SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**99**	**96**	**$229,803**	**$133,004**	**$65,781**	**$31,018**	**93**	**1,216**	**8,560**
Pennsylvania	26	26	96,945	63,035	32,710	1,200	26	523	3,504
Ohio	10	10	14,419	10,002	3,517	900	9	81	655
Indiana	15	15	35,109	16,034	11,954	7,121	15	192	1,630
Michigan	30	29	55,920	23,236	11,703	20,981	29	303	2,027
Nebraska	7	7	13,475	11,020	1,639	816	7	48	345
Other States	11	9	13,935	9,677	4,258		7	69	399

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

In 1853 several ministers and members of the Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania united in protracted evangelistic work. Their efforts were successful, and in 1858 they organized a conference in Lehigh County, Pa., under the name "Evangelical Mennonites."

Eleven years later a Mennonite minister in Canada professed conversion, although he had been in the ministry for some time, and by introducing protracted prayer and fellowship meetings into his work, incurred the censure of the bishops who at that time regarded such things as questionable innovations. The movement spread, however, and soon found many adherents in the United States and Canada. Being disowned by the parent body, these met in 1874 in

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN IN CHRIST

CONFERENCE	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	**99**	**5,882**	**90**	**$544,643**	**22**	**$58,677**	**96**	**$229,803**	**93**	**8,560**
Indiana-Ohio	28	1,863	26	121,843	3	8,700	28	51,671	27	2,414
Michigan	29	1,284	27	98,000	5	8,767	28	55,002	28	1,983
Nebraska	15	514	10	37,200	4	3,250	[1]16	[1]27,410	12	562
Pacific	3	131	3	8,250	1	150			2	182
Pennsylvania	24	2,090	24	279,350	9	37,810	24	95,720	24	3,419

[1] Amount for Nebraska Conference combined with figures for Pacific Conference, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario, and formed an organization known as the "Reformed Mennonites," which is not to be mistaken for the body now known as the Reformed Mennonite Church. The next year they were joined by a small body which had been organized into a separate religious society under the name of the "New Mennonites," the two bodies adopting the name "United Mennonites."

As the purpose of all three organizations was similar, and as there were no vital differences in method of work or form of doctrine, steps were soon taken for further consolidation, and in November, 1879, at a special meeting held at Blair, Ontario, the Evangelical Mennonites of Pennsylvania and the United Mennonites of Ontario, Canada, became one body, and adopted the name "Evangelical United Mennonites."

This body continued to grow in numbers and began the publication of a church periodical and other religious literature. Three years later, in 1882, the Evangelical United Mennonites became acquainted with a small body called the "Brethren in Christ," which had, on account of doctrinal differences, separated from the River Brethren Church in 1838. The two bodies united in 1883, and the present name, "Mennonite Brethren in Christ," was adopted.

DOCTRINE

The articles of faith are twenty-nine in number, all but three being in close accord with the principles taught in the eighteen articles of the Dort Confession of Faith. Of these three exceptions, one treats of entire sanctification as a separate work of grace arising from, and necessarily following, justification and regeneration, and holds it to be "an instantaneous act of God, through the Holy Ghost," by which the person is cleansed from inbred sin or original depravity, and by which he is set apart for the continual service of God. Another treats of divine healing of the sick by the "laying on of hands, and anointing with oil, and praying over them." Though not incorporated in the Dort Confession of Faith, this practice is not uncommon among many of the members of the congregations of the Mennonite Church. A third treats of the millennium, expressing views in regard to the second Advent which are in accord with those of many in the Mennonite Church.

With regard to baptism there is practically no difference between this denomination and other Mennonites in the statement of the doctrine, though the Mennonite Brethren in Christ practice immersion, while the other Mennonite bodies practice pouring or sprinkling. There are other slight differences not stated in the respective confessions of faith and apparent only in practice, especially in the matter of attire, resulting from different interpretations of passages of Scripture, notably I Corinthians xi, 4–15.

ORGANIZATION

The form of church government is similar to that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, except that the authority vested by that body in the episcopate is, in the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, placed in the hands of an executive committee. The local church, whether circuit or appointment, is under the direction of a quarterly conference, which governs all local work and appoints all local officers. The annual conference, including all the circuits of a certain conference territory, assigns pastors to the several churches and makes assessments, but makes no rules that in any way affect church government. The General Conference, which meets every four years, decides all questions of church discipline, rules of order, and other matters pertaining to church government which are referred to it; and also appoints the executive committee, the editor of the church periodical, the board of publication, and other officers. The executive committee considers all questions of church government which arise in the interval between the meetings of the General Conference.

WORK

The home missionary work of the denomination is generally evangelistic, providing church privileges for needy communities and establishing congregations wherever there are sufficient members. During 1924, the last year for which figures are available, about $15,000 was contributed for this work, and 130 missionaries were supported in 62 stations in the United States. Sunday schools are conducted at all the various mission stations and the results are apparent in the many new congregations established. In the proportion of missionaries to members, this body is perhaps second only to the Moravian Church.

Foreign missionary work is carried on in China, India, the Sudan, Armenia, and Chile. The latest report shows 20 stations occupied by 63 missionaries, 4 organized churches, and 3 hospitals with 320 patients. The value of property belonging to the denomination in foreign countries is estimated at $50,000, and the amount contributed for the foreign work was more than $50,000.

This denomination has no schools, but urges its young men and women to take Bible training and college courses.

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	61	7	54		
Members	6,484	646	5,838	10.0	90.0
Average per church	106	92	108		
Membership by sex:					
Male	3,032	295	2,737	9.7	90.3
Female	3,423	351	3,072	10.3	89.7
Sex not reported	29		29		
Males per 100 females	88.6	84.0	89.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	232	1	231	0.4	99.6
13 years and over	6,199	645	5,554	10.4	89.6
Age not reported	53		53		
Per cent under 13 years [3]	3.6	0.2	4.0		
Church edifices:					
Number	50	6	44		
Value—Churches reporting	49	6	43		
Amount reported	$318,920	$46,700	$272,220	14.6	85.4
Average per church	$6,509	$7,783	$6,331		
Debt—Churches reporting	12	2	10		
Amount reported	$11,692	$3,472	$8,220	29.7	70.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	36	4	32		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	2	1	1		
Amount reported	$2,500	$1,500	$1,000	60.0	40.0
Debt—Churches reporting	1	1			
Amount reported	$1,500	$1,500		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage	1		1		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	54	7	47		
Amount reported	$118,384	$9,616	$108,768	8.1	91.9
Current expenses and improvements	$59,926	$5,069	$54,857	8.5	91.5
Benevolences, missions, etc	$58,458	$4,547	$53,911	7.8	92.2
Average expenditure per church	$2,192	$1,374	$2,314		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	50	7	43		
Officers and teachers	642	76	566	11.8	88.2
Scholars	7,575	899	6,676	11.9	88.1

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 61 active organizations of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, with 6,484 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 59 churches and the classification by age was reported by 56 churches, including, however, only 15 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890. This body was reported in 1906 under the name Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde; the figures for 1890 include those for the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde, the two being reported together at that census.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906 [1]	1890 [2]
Churches (local organizations)	61	53	13	12
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	8	40	1	
Per cent [3]				
Members	6,484	5,127	1,825	1,388
Increase over preceding census:				
Number	1,357	3,302	437	
Per cent	26.5	180.9	31.5	
Average membership per church	106	97	140	116
Church edifices:				
Number	50	47	13	11
Value—Churches reporting	49	47	13	
Amount reported	$318,920	$131,605	$13,000	$11,350
Average per church	$6,509	$2,800	$1,000	
Debt—Churches reporting	12	10		
Amount reported	$11,692	$1,700		
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting	2	1		
Amount reported	$2,500	$800		
Debt—Churches reporting	1			
Amount reported	$1,500			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting	54	53		
Amount reported	$118,384	$38,101		
Current expenses and improvements	$59,926	$14,084		
Benevolences, missions, etc	$58,458	$24,017		
Average expenditure per church	$2,192	$719		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting	50	53	13	
Officers and teachers	642	506	120	
Scholars	7,575	7,716	2,550	

[1] Statistics are for Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde, reported in 1916 under the name Mennonite Brethren Church of North America.
[2] Statistics are for Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde and Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde, reported as one body in 1890, under the name Bundes Conferenz der Mennoniten Brueder-Gemeinde.
[3] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences,

etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females [1]
United States	61	7	54	6,484	646	5,838	3,032	3,423	29	88.6
East North Central:										
Michigan	1		1	40		40	19	21		
West North Central:										
Minnesota	1		1	350		350	153	197		77.7
North Dakota	11		11	632		632	284	334	14	85.0
South Dakota	1		1	95		95	40	55		
Nebraska	5		5	288		288	140	148		94.6
Kansas	9		9	1,395		1,395	663	732		90.6
West South Central:										
Oklahoma	14	3	11	1,766	290	1,476	820	946		86.7
Texas	1		1	7		7	4	3		
Mountain:										
Montana	3		3	154		154	72	67	15	
Idaho	1		1	7		7	4	3		
Colorado	2		2	89		89	39	50		
Pacific:										
Oregon	2	2		185	185		77	108		71.3
California	10	2	8	1,476	171	1,305	717	759		94.5

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 [1]
United States	61	53	13	6,484	5,127	1,825	232	6,199	53	3.6
North Dakota	11	11		632	702		163	455	14	26.4
Nebraska	5	3		288	354			288		
Kansas	9	12	13	1,395	1,434	1,825	4	1,382	9	0.3
Oklahoma	14	13		1,766	1,473		7	1,744	15	0.4
Montana	3			154			20	119	15	14.4
California	10	4		1,476	486		28	1,448		1.9
Other States	9	10		773	678		10	763		1.3

[1] Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**61**	**50**	**49**	**$318,920**	**12**	**$11,692**	**2**	**$2,500**	**1**	**$1,500**
North Dakota	11	7	7	18,200	1	280	----	----------	----	--------
Nebraska	5	5	5	33,300	3	5,010	----	----------	----	--------
Kansas	9	8	8	72,820	3	2,450	----	----------	----	--------
Oklahoma	14	12	12	82,200	1	2,500	----	----------	----	--------
California	10	8	8	73,000	2	380	----	----------	----	--------
Other States	12	10	9	39,400	2	1,072	2	2,500	1	1,500

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**61**	**54**	**$118,384**	**$59,926**	**$58,458**	**50**	**642**	**7,575**
North Dakota	11	8	4,990	1,975	3,015	9	65	716
Nebraska	5	5	24,754	21,746	3,008	4	38	393
Kansas	9	9	26,146	15,849	10,297	8	107	1,460
Oklahoma	14	13	22,363	6,961	15,402	13	207	2,361
California	10	10	26,502	11,164	15,338	8	130	1,699
Other States	12	9	13,629	2,231	11,398	8	95	946

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

About the middle of the nineteenth century a number of Mennonite ministers and members in the Crimea and another body along the Molotchna River, in Russia, believing that the church was drifting from the true foundation and becoming lax in religious life, effort, and discipline, separated from the great body of the Mennonites in that Empire. Both bodies joined in the immigration from Russia in 1873 to 1876 and settled chiefly in Kansas, Nebraska, and Minnesota, but afterwards spread into other States and Canada. The communities differed in some details, but preserved their identity, the community from the Crimea being known as the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde, the other as

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

the Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde. This latter body has dropped the name "Schellenberger" and is now known as the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. In many matters they affiliate in the same way as the Mennonite and Amish Mennonite churches, and are frequently classed together as a Bundes, or Union, Conference.

In matters of doctrine the two bodies are in general harmony with other Mennonites, except that they baptize by immersion. Here again, however, there is a distinction; the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde baptize forward, the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America baptize backward, like the Baptists. Each division has its own annual general conference and maintains its own church periodicals.

WORK

The Mennonite Brethren Church has always been more or less zealous in its mission work, with first emphasis on foreign missions.

During the year 1926 they engaged 24 evangelists for all or part time to carry on the extension work in the homeland. They also supported 2 missionaries among the Indians of Oklahoma and at least 8 city mission workers. The contributions for the support of this work amounted to $11,566.

Foreign mission work is carried on in India and China. The report for 1926 shows 5 stations in India and 2 in China, besides many substations under the direction of native workers. Twenty-eight American missionaries and more than 100 native workers were employed. The foreign work now comprises approximately 60 organized churches with about 6,000 communicants. The contributions during the fiscal year amounted to more than $75,000. The value of the real estate in India is about $75,000, and that in China about $25,000.

The educational interests of the denomination are represented by Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kans., and 8 preparatory and Bible schools situated in scattered localities. Financial statistics of these schools for 1926 are not available.

KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	14	2	12		
Members	797	219	578	27.5	72.5
Average per church	57	110	48		
Membership by sex:					
Male	339	86	253	25.4	74.6
Female	458	133	325	29.0	71.0
Males per 100 females	74.0	64.7	77.8		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	40	19	21		
13 years and over	757	200	557	26.4	73.6
Per cent under 13 years	5.0	8.7	3.6		
Church edifices:					
Number	17	2	15		
Value—Churches reporting	14	2	12		
Amount reported	$54,105	$17,200	$36,905	31.8	68.2
Average per church	$3,865	$8,600	$3,075		
Debt—Churches reporting	7		7		
Amount reported	$1,800		$1,800		100.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	7	2	5		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	2	1	1		
Amount reported	$7,000	$4,000	$3,000	57.1	42.9
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	14	2	12		
Amount reported	$13,543	$5,205	$8,338	38.4	61.6
Current expenses and improvements	$6,088	$2,125	$3,963	34.9	65.1
Benevolences, missions, etc	$7,455	$3,080	$4,375	41.3	58.7
Average expenditure per church	$967	$2,603	$695		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	14	2	12		
Officers and teachers	118	30	88	25.4	74.6
Scholars	1,182	285	897	24.1	75.9

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 14 active organizations of the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde, with 797 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 14 churches, including, however, only 7 which reported any members under 13 years of age. There was no debt on the 2 parsonages reported.

Comparative data, 1906–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, and 1906. Statistics for 1890 are included with those for Schellenberger Brueder-Gemeinde (now Mennonite Brethren Church of North America), the two being reported as one body under the name Bundes Conferenz der Mennoniten Brueder-Gemeinde.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations)	14	13	6
Increase over preceding census:			
Number	1	7	
Per cent [1]			
Members	797	894	708
Increase [2] over preceding census:			
Number	−97	186	
Per cent	−10.9	26.3	
Average membership per church	57	69	118
Church edifices:			
Number	17	14	6
Value—Churches reporting	14	12	6
Amount reported	$54,105	$31,700	$17,900
Average per church	$3,865	$2,642	$2,983
Debt—Churches reporting	7	1	1
Amount reported	$1,800	$1,000	$100
Parsonages:	2	1	1
Value—Churches reporting	$7,000	$700	$400
Amount reported			
Expenditures during year:	14	13	
Churches reporting	$13,543	$13,075	
Amount reported	$6,088	$2,829	
Current expenses and improvements	$7,455	$10,246	
Benevolences, missions, etc	$967	$1,006	
Average expenditure per church			
Sunday schools:	14	13	6
Churches reporting	118	117	61
Officers and teachers	1,182	1,556	680
Scholars			

[1] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100. [2] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	**14**	**2**	**12**	**797**	**219**	**578**	**339**	**458**	**74.0**
East North Central:									
Illinois	1	1	------	99	99	--------	33	66	--------
West North Central:									
North Dakota	1	------	1	34	--------	34	12	22	--------
South Dakota	2	------	2	168	--------	168	75	93	--------
Nebraska	1	------	1	33	--------	33	18	15	--------
Kansas	2	------	2	130	--------	130	55	75	--------
South Atlantic:									
North Carolina	5	------	5	175	--------	175	75	100	75.0
West South Central:									
Oklahoma	1	------	1	38	--------	38	18	20	--------
Pacific:									
California	1	1	------	120	120	--------	53	67	--------

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926		
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Per cent under 13
United States	**14**	**13**	**6**	**797**	**894**	**708**	**40**	**757**	**5.0**
Kansas	2	6	3	130	501	509	--------	130	--------
North Carolina	5	1	------	175	34	--------	20	155	11.4
Other States	7	6	3	492	359	199	20	472	4.1

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**14**	**17**	**14**	**$54,105**	**7**	**$1,800**	**2**	**$7,000**
North Carolina	5	5	5	8,000	5	1,200	------	(1)
Other States [2]	9	12	9	46,105	2	600	2	7,000

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

[2] The figures for value of parsonages include data for 1 church in North Carolina.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: KRIMMER BRUEDER-GEMEINDE

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR			SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**14**	**14**	**$13,543**	**$6,088**	**$7,455**	**14**	**118**	**1,182**
North Carolina	5	5	2,400	2,000	400	5	20	200
Other States	9	9	11,143	4,088	7,055	9	98	982

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

The general statement of this body is given in connection with that of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. The two bodies are closely affiliated in many ways and, as previously stated, are frequently spoken of as a Bundes, or Union, Conference.

The Krimmer Mennonite Brethren maintain a mission station with 4 substations for Negro people, at Elk Park, N. C., where in 1926 they employed 2 white missionaries and contributed $850 toward their support. They have 5 Sunday schools. The property is worth about $6,000.

Their work in the foreign field includes 2 mission stations with 30 substations, 1 in China and 1 in Mongolia, with a total membership of 580, and 1 orphanage in China, the property of which is valued at about $30,000, and which in 1926 accommodated about 300 inmates. The total amount contributed during the year for the foreign work was $8,000. They also have 1 city mission and a publishing house in Chicago.

Their educational work is represented by Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kans., and an academy at Inman, Kans., which reports 67 students and school property valued at $10,000. They maintain a home and hospital valued at $40,000 at Hillsboro, Kans., in which 90 patients were treated during the year, and for which $600 was contributed.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by the Rev. Joseph W. Tschetter, Chicago, Ill., and approved by him in its present form.

MENNONITE KLEINE GEMEINDE

STATISTICS

The data given for 1926 represent 4 active organizations of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde, all rural churches in the State of Kansas. The total membership was 214, comprising 93 males and 121 females. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 4 churches and the classification by age was reported by only 1 church, which, however, did not report any members under 13 years of age. There were no parsonages reported.

The membership of the Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

Comparative data, 1926 and 1916.—Table 1 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926 and 1916. This body was reported separately for the first time in 1916, apparently having been included with the Krimmer Brueder-Gemeinde in 1906.

TABLE 1.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: MENNONITE KLEINE GEMEINDE

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations)	4	3
Increase over preceding census:		
Number	1	
Per cent [1]		
Members	214	171
Increase over preceding census:		
Number	43	
Per cent	25.1	
Average membership per church	54	57
Church edifices:		
Number	4	2
Value—Churches reporting	4	2
Amount reported	$6,700	$3,200
Average per church	$1,675	$1,600
Debt—Churches reporting		2
Amount reported		$390
Expenditures during year:		
Churches reporting	4	2
Amount reported	$486	$25
Current expenses and improvements	$486	$25
Average expenditure per church	$122	$13
Sunday schools:		
Churches reporting	3	4
Officers and teachers	6	14
Scholars	150	66

[1] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

From 1812 to 1819 there was in progress in the Mennonite Church the movement which resulted in the Kleine Gemeinde (Little Congregation) in southern Russia. The cause of the division was mainly a matter of discipline, and the stricter element became finally separated from the main body of Mennonites. At various times efforts, more or less successful, were made to bring about an understanding and a reconciliation between the Kleine Gemeinde and the main body, but none were able to wipe out the division entirely. In the migration from Russia to America in the seventies, the Kleine Gemeinde had its share. The separate organization has been kept up, though there is no difference in doctrine and little difference in practice between the Kleine Gemeinde and the other Russian Mennonites. The majority of the denomination is in Manitoba, Canada.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Central Conference of Mennonites for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Central Conference of Mennonites consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	29	10	19		
Members	3,124	1,153	1,971	36.9	63.1
Average per church	108	115	104		
Membership by sex:					
Male	1,406	513	893	36.5	63.5
Female	1,718	640	1,078	37.3	62.7
Males per 100 females	81.8	80.2	82.8		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	267	85	182	31.8	68.2
13 years and over	2,857	1,068	1,789	37.4	62.6
Per cent under 13 years	8.5	7.4	9.2		
Church edifices:					
Number	25	10	15		
Value—Churches reporting	24	9	15		
Amount reported	$263,000	$110,000	$153,000	41.8	58.2
Average per church	$10,958	$12,222	$10,200		
Debt—Churches reporting	3	2	1		
Amount reported	$22,500	$10,500	$12,000	46.7	53.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	20	7	13		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	3	2	1		
Amount reported	$12,000	$8,000	$4,000	66.7	33.3
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	29	10	19		
Amount reported	$100,747	$27,091	$73,656	26.9	73.1
Current expenses and improvements	$76,306	$20,520	$55,786	26.9	73.1
Benevolences, missions, etc	$24,441	$6,571	$17,870	26.9	73.1
Average expenditure per church	$3,474	$2,709	$3,877		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	28	9	19		
Officers and teachers	485	174	311	35.9	64.1
Scholars	3,614	1,505	2,109	41.6	58.4

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 29 active churches of the Central Conference of Mennonites, with 3,124 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 29 churches, including 22 which reported members under 13 years of age. There was no debt on the 3 parsonages reported.

Comparative data, 1906–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, and 1906.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations)	29	17	13
Increase over preceding census:			
Number	12	4	
Per cent [1]			
Members	3,124	2,101	1,363
Increase over preceding census:			
Number	1,023	738	
Per cent	48.7	54.1	
Average membership per church	108	124	105
Church edifices:			
Number	25	16	12
Value—Churches reporting	24	16	12
Amount reported	$263,000	$91,500	$25,900
Average per church	$10,958	$5,719	$2,158
Debt—Churches reporting	3		
Amount reported	$22,500		
Parsonages:			
Value—Churches reporting	3		
Amount reported	$12,000		
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting	29	17	
Amount reported	$100,747	$21,621	
Current expenses and improvements	$76,306	$14,603	
Benevolences, missions, etc	$24,441	$7,018	
Average expenditure per church	$3,474	$1,272	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting	28	16	12
Officers and teachers	485	225	116
Scholars	3,614	2,059	958

[1] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Central Conference of Mennonites by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	**29**	**10**	**19**	**3,124**	**1,153**	**1,971**	**1,406**	**1,718**	**81.8**
East North Central:									
Indiana	7	1	6	743	230	513	333	410	81.2
Illinois	17	6	11	2,123	719	1,404	957	1,166	82.1
Michigan	2	------	2	54	--------	54	24	30	--------
West North Central:									
Nebraska	1	1	------	125	125	--------	55	70	--------
Kansas	1	1	------	24	24	--------	12	12	--------
Mountain:									
Idaho	1	1	------	55	55	--------	25	30	--------

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926		
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Per cent under 13
United States	**29**	**17**	**13**	**3,124**	**2,101**	**1,363**	**267**	**2,857**	**8.5**
Indiana	7	1	1	743	63	65	31	712	4.2
Illinois	17	14	11	2,123	1,894	1,208	193	1,930	9.1
Other States	5	2	1	258	144	90	43	215	16.7

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	**29**	**25**	**24**	**$263,000**	**3**	**$22,500**	**3**	**$12,000**
Indiana	7	6	6	67,000	------	----------	------	(1)
Illinois	17	16	15	188,500	2	22,000	------	(1)
Other States [2]	5	3	3	7,500	1	500	3	12,000

[1] Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

[2] The figures for value of parsonages include data for 3 churches in Indiana and Illinois.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	**29**	**29**	**$100,747**	**$76,306**	**$24,441**	**28**	**485**	**3,614**
Indiana	7	7	42,698	36,650	6,048	7	97	792
Illinois	17	17	54,410	37,242	17,168	17	335	2,474
Other States	5	5	3,639	2,414	1,225	4	53	348

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

At the time of the organization of the Western District Conference of the Amish Mennonite Church a number of congregations in Illinois, to whom the requirements of membership in this conference seemed too rigid, did not unite with it, but remained independent of all conference affiliations. In 1899 these congregations organized a conference, which has since met annually. At first it was known as the Central Illinois Conference, but since it has spread into other States the term "Illinois" has been dropped. While these congregations never formally separated from the Amish Mennonite Church and hold the same confession, they are less strict in discipline and rules of order than the parent church.

The denomination has established a city mission in Chicago and one in Peoria, Ill., having in each city a building devoted to this work.

The foreign mission work is carried on in connection with the Defenseless Mennonites in West Central Africa, under the name of the Congo Inland Mission, and the information concerning it is given in connection with that body.

The denomination has no educational institution of its own, but contributes toward the support of the Mennonite Seminary, at Bluffton, Ohio, which, with other Mennonite conferences, it helped to found.

They support, conjointly with the Defenseless Mennonites, Salem Orphanage, at Flanagan, Ill., and also the Mennonite Sanitarium at Bloomington, Ill. They carry on philanthropic work in various institutions, such as the Moody Bible Institute, at Chicago, Ill., a home for fallen girls at Springfield, Ill., and other places all over the United States, also contributing freely to the Red Cross work, etc.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

CONFERENCE OF THE DEFENSELESS MENNONITES OF NORTH AMERICA

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Conference of the Defenseless Mennonites of North America for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Conference of the Defenseless Mennonites of North America consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CONFERENCE OF THE DEFENSELESS MENNONITES OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	9	2	7		
Members	818	184	634	22.5	77.5
Average per church	91	92	91		
Membership by sex:					
Male	357	73	284	20.4	79.6
Female	461	111	350	24.1	75.9
Males per 100 females	77.4	65.8	81.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	1	1			
13 years and over	817	183	634	22.4	77.6
Per cent under 13 years	0.1	0.5			
Church edifices:					
Number	9	2	7		
Value—Churches reporting	9	2	7		
Amount reported	$60,900	$28,500	$32,400	46.8	53.2
Average per church	$6,767	$14,250	$4,629		
Debt—Churches reporting	2		2		
Amount reported	$282		$282		100.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice	6	2	4		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	2	1	1		
Amount reported	$17,500	$15,000	$2,500	85.7	14.3
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	9	2	7		
Amount reported	$14,680	$4,921	$9,759	33.5	66.5
Current expenses and improvements	$5,864	$3,365	$2,499	57.4	42.6
Benevolences, missions, etc	$8,816	$1,556	$7,260	17.6	82.4
Average expenditure per church	$1,631	$2,461	$1,394		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	8	2	6		
Officers and teachers	143	55	88	38.5	61.5
Scholars	1,415	513	902	36.3	63.7

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 9 active churches of the Conference of the Defenseless Mennonites of North America, with 818 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 9 churches, including, however, only 1 which reported any members under 13 years of age. There was no debt on the 2 parsonages reported.

Comparative data, 1906–1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, and 1906; it was reported as the Nebraska and Minnesota Conference of Mennonites in 1906.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: CONFERENCE OF THE DEFENSELESS MENNONITES OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations)	9	15	8
Increase [1] over preceding census:			
Number	−6	7	
Per cent [2]			
Members	818	1,171	545
Increase [1] over preceding census:			
Number	−353	626	
Per cent	−30.1	114.9	
Average membership per church	91	78	68
Church edifices:			
Number	9	13	6
Value—Churches reporting	9	12	6
Amount reported	$60,900	$30,625	$9,000
Average per church	$6,767	$2,552	$1,500
Debt—Churches reporting	2		
Amount reported	$282		
Parsonages:			
Value—Churches reporting	2		
Amount reported	$17,500		
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting	9	12	
Amount reported	$14,680	$8,239	
Current expenses and improvements	$5,864	$1,873	
Benevolences, missions, etc	$8,816	$6,366	
Average expenditure per church	$1,631	$687	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting	8	14	8
Officers and teachers	143	135	45
Scholars	1,415	1,757	782

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease. [2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3 and 4 present the statistics for the Conference of the Defenseless Mennonites of North America by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. The States omitted from this table can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CONFERENCE OF THE DEFENSELESS MENNONITES OF NORTH AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (1)
United States	9	2	7	818	184	634	357	461	77.4
East North Central:									
Illinois	1	1	------	71	71	--------	22	49	--------
West North Central:									
Minnesota	1	------	1	200	--------	200	87	113	77.0
South Dakota	1	------	1	100	--------	100	45	55	--------
Nebraska	2	------	2	185	--------	185	75	110	68.2
Kansas	1	------	1	45	--------	45	21	24	--------
Mountain:									
Montana	2	------	2	104	--------	104	56	48	--------
Pacific:									
Oregon	1	1	------	113	113	--------	51	62	--------

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CONFERENCE OF THE DEFENSELESS MENNONITES OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926		
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Per cent under 13
United States	9	15	8	818	1,171	545	1	817	0.1
Illinois	1	3	------	71	196	--------	------	71	--------
Minnesota	1	3	3	200	577	373	------	200	--------
Nebraska	2	3	3	185	178	130	------	185	--------
Other States	5	6	2	362	220	42	1	361	0.3

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

This body includes a part of the Mennonites who came from Russia in 1873–74. They hold the same doctrine and have the same polity as the Mennonite Church. They have, however, a distinct ecclesiastical organization and are classed as a separate body. This body also cooperates somewhat with the other body of Defenseless Mennonites, which, however, is largely German.

This conference supports two missionaries in India in connection with the American Mennonite Mission, maintained by the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities of the Mennonite Church.

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

STAUFFER MENNONITE CHURCH

STATISTICS

The data given for 1926 represent 4 active organizations of the Stauffer Mennonite Church, all rural churches in the State of Pennsylvania. The total membership was 243, comprising 111 males and 132 females. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 4 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age.

The membership of the Stauffer Mennonite Church consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

Of the two churches reporting value of church edifices, both reported "no debt" on such property; no parsonages were reported; and the church maintains no Sunday schools.

Comparative data, 1926 and 1916.—Table 1 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926 and 1916.

TABLE 1.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: STAUFFER MENNONITE CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations)	4	5
Increase [1] over preceding census:		
Number	−1	----------
Per cent [2]	----------	----------
Members	243	209
Increase over preceding census:	34	----------
Number	16.3	----------
Per cent		
Average membership per church	61	42
Church edifices:		
Number	3	3
Value—Churches reporting	2	3
Amount reported	$4,500	$3,000
Average per church	$2,250	$1,000
Expenditures during year:		
Churches reporting	1	----------
Amount reported	$180	----------
Current expenses and improvements	$180	----------

[1] A minus sign (−) denotes decrease. [2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION [1]

About the decade 1840–1850, in the Groffdale Mennonite congregation, Lancaster County, Pa., certain questions arose with regard to the discipline of unruly members. The dispute became so sharp that the congregation divided, one wing adhering to the main body of the church and the other, the more strict

[1] This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. A. Ressler, editor of the Mennonite Year Book, Scottdale, Pa., and approved by him in its present form.

element in adhering to the discipline of the church, separating and continuing to the present time under the name of the Stauffer Mennonites, after Jacob Stauffer, leader of this party. Their principal house of worship is located on the Hinkletown and Blue Ball Pike, hence they have locally been called "Pikers."

The largest body of these people is still in the community where they originated, though there are some members in Lebanon, Snyder, and Union Counties, Pa.

This body has again divided because of personalities, each party claiming to be the right and true "Stauffer Mennonite Church." A third party split off within recent years and is locally known in Lancaster County, Pa., as the "Rissler Mennonites," after their leading bishop. There are only 11 members in the last-named division. The statistics given include the three branches.

In doctrine and polity they very closely resemble the Reformed Mennonites, have the same Confession of Faith as that used by the Mennonite Church (in the German language), and use the German language exclusively in their worship.

They have no Sunday schools, no evening meetings, and no continued evangelistic meetings.

UNAFFILIATED MENNONITE CONGREGATIONS

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Unaffiliated Mennonite Congregations for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Unaffiliated Mennonite Congregations consists of communicant members of the local congregations, who have made confession of faith and have been baptized.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: UNAFFILIATED MENNONITE CONGREGATIONS

ITEM	Total	In urban territory [1]	In rural territory [1]	PER CENT OF TOTAL [2]	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	5	1	4		
Members	348	32	316	9.2	90.8
Average per church	70	32	79		
Membership by sex:					
Male	168	20	148	11.9	88.1
Female	180	12	168	6.7	93.3
Males per 100 females	93.3	[3]	88.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	3		3		
13 years and over	345	32	313	9.3	90.7
Per cent under 13 years	0.9		0.9		
Church edifices:					
Number	3		3		
Value—Churches reporting	3		3		
Amount reported	$23,000		$23,000		100.0
Average per church	$7,667		$7,667		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting	1		1		
Amount reported	$2,060		$2,060		100.0
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	4		4		
Amount reported	$5,150		$5,150		100.0
Current expenses and improvements	$2,695		$2,695		100.0
Benevolences, missions, etc	$2,455		$2,455		100.0
Average expenditure per church	$1,288		$1,288		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	4	1	3		
Officers and teachers	50	12	38		
Scholars	370	70	300	18.9	81.1

[1] Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.
[3] Ratio not shown, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 5 active churches of the Unaffiliated Mennonite Congregations, with 348 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 5 churches, including, however, only 1 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Of the 3 churches reporting the value of church edifices, all reported "no debt" on such property and there was no debt on the 1 parsonage reported.

As this body was reported for the first time in 1926, no comparative data are available.

State table.—Table 2 gives for each State the number and membership of the Unaffiliated Mennonite Congregations according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: UNAFFILIATED MENNONITE CONGREGATIONS

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females [1]
United States	**5**	**1**	**4**	**348**	**32**	**316**	**168**	**180**	**93.3**
Middle Atlantic:									
Pennsylvania	2	1	1	75	32	43	39	36	--------
East North Central:									
Ohio	2	------	2	187	--------	187	97	90	--------
Indiana	1	------	1	86	--------	86	32	54	--------

[1] Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

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